



AFGHANISTAN REPORT

NO. 70, 71 & 72

FEBRUARY, MARCH & APRIL 1990

**CRISIS & CONFLICT ANALYSIS TEAM
THE INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC STUDIES
SECTOR F-5/2, P. O. BOX 1173
ISLAMABAD-PAKISTAN**

**CRISIS AND CONFLICT ANALYSIS TEAM (CCAT)
AFGHANISTAN**

Chairman .. **Ross Masood Husain**
Co-Chairman .. **Ijaz S. Gilani**
Project Coordinators .. **Fazal-ur-Rahman**
M. Ashraf Poswall
Associate .. **Mohammad Umar Khan**

1. The Crisis and Conflict Analysis Team comprises of leading academicians, strategists, researchers and policy analysts interested in the study of international relations. The members of this team meet periodically in groups; one team is devoted to the study of the Afghan crisis and conflict. In the light of carefully monitored information each group reviews current developments in its respective conflict area, and offers various policy options for consideration. While the Institute of Strategic Studies provides the forum, coordinates research and publishes the findings of the Crisis and Conflict Analysis Team, it does not necessarily share the views expressed by the team members whose participation in this group is in their individual capacity.

2. The information and overt intelligence incorporated in this report after collection, collation, and evaluation is based on primary and secondary sources of all the parties in the conflict. The primary sources availed are the monitoring reports of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation covering Moscow, Tashkent, Dushambe and Kabul broadcasts, Afghan, Soviet, and other Embassy handouts, and information received from the Afghan Documentation Centre, Afghan Information Centre, the Afghan Islamic Press, and the Agency Afghan Press files. Secondary sources are the international media, and research papers and writings of the academicians. We are aware of the paucity of correct, complete and timely information from closed societies, as also the lack of formal and trained command, control, communication and intelligence set-up in the Mujahideen, as present in regular armies.

— Editor

AFGHANISTAN REPORT

**FEBRUARY, MARCH &
APRIL 1990**



**IJAZ S. GILANI
FAZAL-UR-RAHMAN**

Edited and Published by Ross Masood Husain on behalf of the Institute of Strategic Studies vide DM. Islamabad Memo No. 2617/C of 14-7-1985 and despatched under GPO's Registered No. N-1072, Telephones: 824628, 821340, 824658.

Subscription Rates: *Annual* Rs. 120.00 *Single copy* Rs. 30.00; *Overseas Annual* US \$ 60.00, *Single* US \$ 15.00 including air mail. *Address:* The Institute of Strategic Studies, Sector F-5/2, Islamabad.

Printed by Abdal Ghani Barq at Ferozsons Rawalpindi Ltd., 32 Saddar Road, Rawalpindi, Telephones: 62302 - 62366 - 67901.

NOTES

The quarterly Afghanistan Report is a carefully researched document for the benefit of scholars and policy makers. Its aim is to present an objective analysis of the Afghan resistance, the Soviet-Kabul military and psychological warfare, socio-political and economic developments.

The information and overt intelligence incorporated in this report after collection, and evaluation is based on primary and secondary sources of all parties in the conflict. The primary sources availed are the monitoring reports of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation covering Moscow, Tashkent, Dushambe and Kabul broadcasts, Kabul Times, and FBIS Daily Reports covering Soviet-Kabul sources.

Primary sources for news report from Mujahideen include: Al-Bunyan News Service, the Afghan Information Centre, Afghan News, MIDIA despatches, and Agency Afghan Press files. Secondary sources are the International Media, and research papers and writings of the academicians. We are conscious of the paucity of correct, complete and timely information from closed societies, as also the lack of formal and trained command, control, communication and intelligence set-up among the Mujahideen.

Figures of casualties and material losses given in the Report are only those few cases where such inclusions were necessary for proper appreciation of the given events.

The reports received and reported are subject to the process of verification, whenever possible, which may include interviewing with those most directly informed on the events.

Voice of Islamic Revolutionary Afghanistan (VOIR) is a Mujahideen Radio Station reportedly based in Mashad.

PERIOD COVERED

Facts and figures given in this study are based on reports mostly received during January, February and March 1990.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

The Historical Perspective ..	ISSI Map	
I. The Fourth Afghan War ..	Hasan Akhtar Gardezi	
	Mohammad Ashraf Poswal	

1. Afghanistan War Report, February, 1990 ...	...	1
2. Psychological Warfare Themes ...	...	10
3. Afghanistan War Report, March, 1990 ...	...	13
4. Psychological Warfare Themes ...	...	22
5. Afghanistan War Report, April, 1990 ...	...	25
6. Psychological Warfare Themes ...	...	37

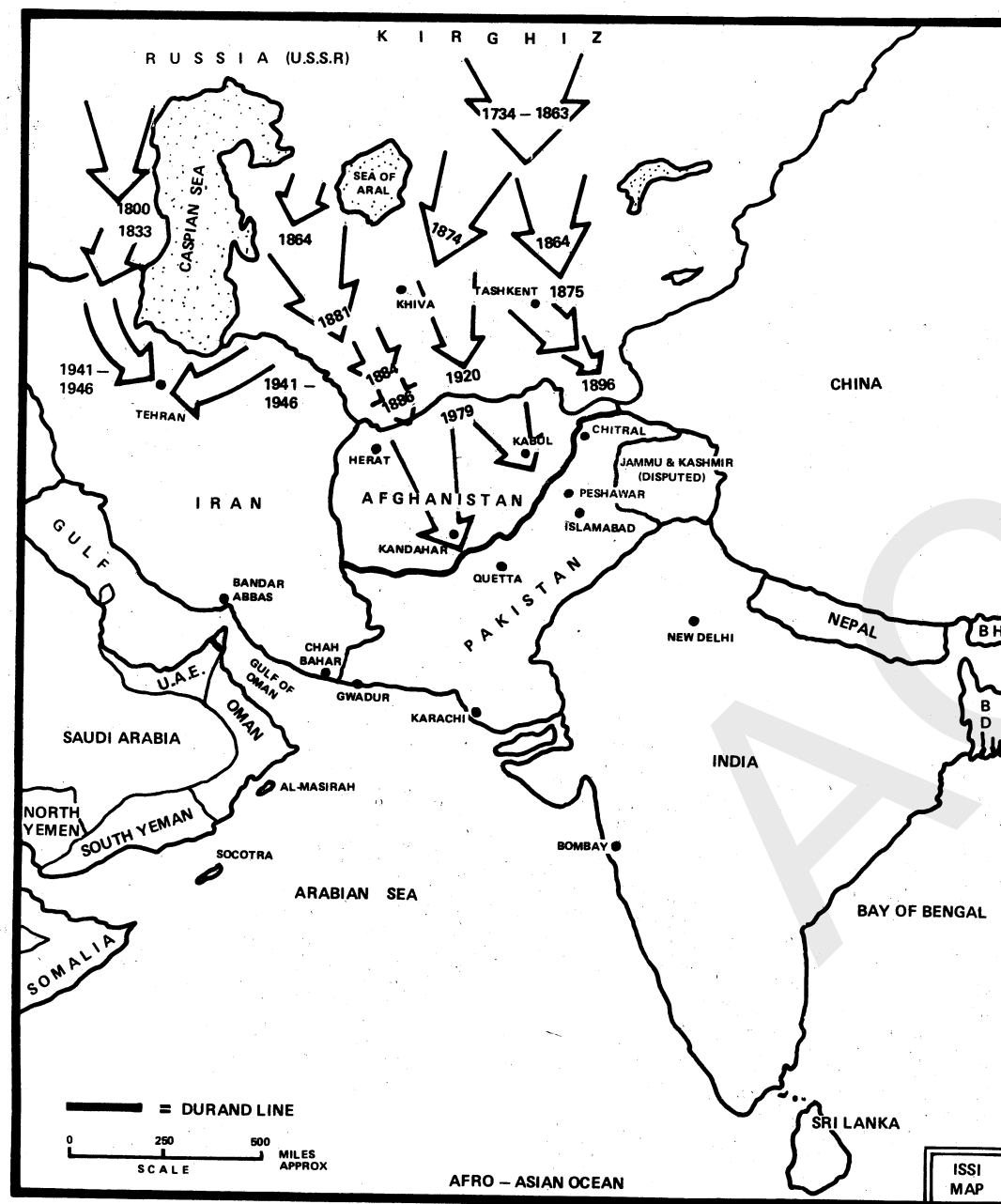
APPENDICES

1. Statistical Picture of the Afghan War ...	...	39
2. Province-wise Engagements in January, 1990 ...	...	40
3. Statistical Picture of the Afghan War ...	...	41
4. Province-wise Engagements in February, 1990 ...	...	42
5. Statistical Picture of the Afghan War ...	...	43
6. Province-wise Engagements in February, 1990 ...	...	45
7. Total Military Operations - Comparative Data With Last Six Months ...	...	46
8. Kabul Air Losses in Last Seven Months ...	...	46
9. Human Losses in Last Seven Months ...	...	47

II. POLITICO-ECONOMIC AND SOCIO-CULTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN .. Fazal-ur-Rehman Mohammad Umar Khan

1. Political Developments ...	...	48
2. Economic Reconstruction & Repatriation ...	...	70

THE HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE



AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORT FEBRUARY 1990

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORT

FEBRUARY 1990

The highest intensity of fighting in Afghanistan in January 1990 was reported from the Logar province, south-east of the capital Kabul. Logar lies across a major military road which leads to Gardez and Khost in Paktiya province. It has remained closed for the past several months and consequently government garrisons in Paktiya are in desperate straits. Resupply of weapons, fuel and food by aircraft is not enough, and often dangerous.

Kabul government tanks, tractors and trucks supported by fighter bombers and helicopter gunships – made several attempts during January to get past the Mohammad Agha – Pule Alam salient. Apparently, they failed and fell back on Kabul. In the process, they lost many tanks and atleast two aircraft. Both sides suffered heavy casualties. Meanwhile Mujahideen continued pressure on Khost, making atleast three bold but unsuccessful sorties to reach its inner defences.

Fighting was brisk north of Kabul in Paghman, Parwan and Baghlan, along the Salang highway. And rockets continued falling on Kabul intermittently, Kabul Airport being the main target.

In the northwestern province of Faryab, Kabul government forces launched a major offensive on Mujahideen positions in Shirin Tagab district. Mujahideen reports said that fighting continued for 25 days. Ultimately, towards the end of January, Kabul forces retreated after suffering several hundred casualties. Two Soviet-made fighter-bombers and a helicopter was also shot down. About 100 Mujahideen were killed in Shirin Tagab and Daulatabad districts which lies close to the Central Asian Republic of Turkministan.

Mujahideen sources reported 306 incidents in 23 out of 31 Afghan provinces during January 1990. These 30 military

engagements comprised 51 Mujahideen strikes on mobile targets and 132 against immobile targets. Kabul forces conducted at least 56 air and 67 air strikes against Mujahideen positions.

The highest intensity of conflict was reported from Logar, Kabul and Faryab provinces followed by Herat and Parwan.

Southern Afghanistan

Nimroz, Helmand, Qandahar, Zabul and Ghazni

The vast desertine Baluchi-Brauhi speaking province of Nimroz in the extreme south-west of Afghanistan was quiet, more or less. By far the largest part of Nimroz and the adjoining Helmand provinces have already been liberated. The only notable fighting in south-west Afghanistan during January was reported from Chakwal (Helmand), the exact position of which could not be readily verified. Here the Mujahideen blasted two lorries carrying arms and ammunition and killed and captured a number of soldiers. Two Mujahideen were also killed and eight injured.

Qandahar and Ghazni were more active, but here too the intensity of fighting was low, and remained confined mainly to Mujahideen attacks on security posts around the Old City, Cantonment and Airport. This could probably be related to Kabul government's overwhelming dependence for reimbursement of supplies to the besieged garrison of Qandahar on aerial means of transportation. In the circumstances, the Mujahideen would naturally want to snap the aerial supply link. The three highways connecting Qandahar with the outside world are (1) Kabul-Ghazni-Qandahar road, (2) Torghundi-Herat-Lashkargah-Qandahar road and (3) Spin-Boldak-Qandahar road. All the three have been closed to Kabul government traffic for several months.

In the meantime, Kabul regime forces persisted with their efforts to clear areas around the high vantage ground around Tor-Kotal and Khushab which gave the Mujahideen

access to fire rockets and missiles on Qandahar Airport. The Kabul regime forces started these so called "mopping up" operations in December, and yet, have no apparently achieved their objective fully. Even Kabul government sources, including Kabul Radio and Kabul Times, speak of continuing clashes in the selfsame area. Here, they claim, Kabul government troops had killed upto 100 "extremists" and destroyed a large quantity of arms and ammunition, besides demolishing several of their "strongholds".

Interestingly, Kabul Times, in its issue of January 9 said that the Security Forces had, among other things, destroyed a "tank" belonging to the Mujahideen. So, the Mujahideen too have tanks! Was the stricken tank of Russian-make? Kabul Times did not care to elaborate it.

In Zabul province, the Mujahideen attacked troops and other government establishments at Shahre Safa, knocking out two tanks. A number of government buildings were also hit.

On January 4, Mujahideen attacked a security post guarding the strategic communications centre and garrison town of Maqar in Ghazni. Twenty militiamen surrendered to Mujahideen, who also seized a quantity of arms and ammunition, and food. On January 15, and 25 Mujahideen attacked troops and government establishments in and around Ghazni city with mortars and machineguns.

Eastern Afghanistan

Paktika, Paktiya, Ningarhar, Kunar and Nooristan

Mujahideen made atleast three concerted attacks on the besieged Kabul regime cantonment at Khost during January. The first was initiated on January 3, the second on January 11 and the third of January 27. The last spilled over into February. None of these attacks achieved the "intended purpose" which was to penetrate the inner defences of the garrison town and eliminate a formidable hurdle between

themselves and Gardez and Kabul. Indeed, at one stage the Mujahideen were within 4 kilometres of the centre of the city. They had taken another 3 military posts. A general of the Kabul Army, Ajab Khan, too had been killed during an artillery duel.

The Kabul authorities responded by flying in to Khost another of its top generals, Assadullah Payam, and simultaneously firing Scud missiles from Kabul on Mujahideen positions. Government forces also sallied forth from their confinement in the cantonment to attack Mujahideen in Dargai district, some 9 kilometres south-west of Khost city.

Both sides claimed having inflicted heavy casualties – in hundreds – on their opponents. Mujahideen also said that they had destroyed 3 or 4 Soviet-made aircraft on Khost airfield, or in its vicinity.

Meanwhile, a large military convoy sent out from Kabul to relieve Gardez and Khost in the first week of January bogged down in Logar province. So, the state of stalemate continued in Paktiya.

Najibullah government officials said in Kabul on January 2 that the Mujahideen had launched a major attack on the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad, bombarding it with rockets. The Government made a counter-attack with war planes and artillery, in which more than one hundred and forty Mujahideen were killed.

Mujahideen sources said that their gunners had also attacked Jalalabad airport with heavy artillery and rocket fire. The airport is the only lifeline between Kabul and the provincial garrison.

Fighting in Jalalabad district and other areas continued throughout the month of January. Some of the areas mentioned in this connection were Surkhrud, Surkhdewal, Abdul Khair, Khewa and Samerkhel.

A Soviet supplied Scud missile hit a neighbourhood of Samarkhel on January 12 injuring a Mujahid and destroying a vehicle.

Mujahideen reports said they had killed a notorious militia commander of Kabul regime, Asif Shamoliwal, during a rocket attack on troops south-west of Jalalabad city. They also claimed that a number of regime soldiers and militiamen had defected to them.

There were not any reports of fighting from the adjoining three provinces of Paktika, Kunar and Nooristan from where the Kabul regime forces have withdrawn.

Northern Afghanistan

Badakhshan, Takhar, Kunduz, Baghlan, Samangan, Balkh, Jowzjan, Saripul, Faryab and Badghis

There are ten provinces in Northern Afghanistan. Mujahideen sources reported fighting from 7 provinces, Faryab and Badakhshan bearing the brunt of it. In both cases, Kabul regime forces took the initiative. Probably they wanted to take advantage of presumed disarray in the ranks of Mujahideen factions of Jamiat-e-Islami and Hezb-e-Islami. Northern Afghanistan is also currently suffering from acute shortage of food, following prolonged drought. This lends a certain leverage to the government.

In Badakhshan, Kabul regime forces fired Scud missiles on Mujahideen positions in the liberated Keshm district. Mujahideen conjectured these missiles had been fired from launching pads in Mazar-e-Sharif, Balkh province. One of the missiles hit a mosque school, killing 3 students and a teacher. The teacher was Maulvi Abdur Rahim, prominent scholar, a Mujahideen sources stated on January 15. Another hit the residential quarters of the Keshm town. There were many casualties. Keshm, which lies on Taloqan-Faizabad road, had been liberated after Soviet troops left Afghanistan last February.

Kabul Times said that clashes had lately taken place in Badakhshan between "Sayyaf" and "Rabbani extremist" groups in Bazarak district. Likewise, Radio Kabul reported bloody exchanges between "armed group of Gulbuddin and Rabbani bands" in Share Buzurg and Khanabad areas of Badakhshan.

Whereas the communist offensive in Badakhshan was mainly aerial – Scud missiles and high flying aircraft – and psychological – radio and newspaper reports of Mujahideen infighting – in the Faryab province they launched a major infantry-cum-armour-cum-airforce campaign in the two adjoining districts of Shirin Tagab and Daulatabad. Starting on the first of January, it continued for no less than 25 days. In between they were seriously checked by Mujahideen on January 8, 10 and 24. In the battle taking place on January 10, the invading Kabul army lost more than 200 men. The Kabul army also lost two jet fighter planes and a helicopter.

Mujahideen and civilian losses due to artillery and airforce bombardment were believed to be heavy.

Mujahideen said they beat back the invasion of the liberated territories. Kabul regime sources said that their troops had returned to their bases after completing the mission.

In Baghlan province, Mujahideen attacked several mobile targets along the vital Salang highway. One of the attacks which yielded more positive results than others was on a convoy carrying supplies from the north to the besieged garrison in the provincial capital, Baghlan city. During the ambush which materialized near the township of Darvish, the Mujahideen seized 14 vehicles loaded with food and military supplies. Seven tanks and four other armoured vehicles were hit.

Mujahideen attacked Kabul regime troops and establishments in and around Pul-e-Khumri. In retaliation Soviet-made aeroplanes bombarded Mujahideen positions

and rural communities, resulting in many casualties and loss to housing.

Mujahideen also attacked Kabul government military convoys in Samangan and Balkh provinces on the roads linking the northern Oxus River port of Hairatan with Kabul. Urban guerrillas conducted hit and run raids on government establishments and officials in Aibak city (Samangan), Mazar-e-Sharif (Balkh) and Shabergan (Jowzjan).

On their part, Soviet-Kabul media-radio stations of Kabul and Moscow – played up the theme of differences and infighting amongst the Mujahideen groups. Kabul Times also said that the State Security Departments of various provinces in Northern Afghanistan were "purchasing" surface-to-air rockets from armed opposition groups.

Western Afghanistan

Herat, Farah

Mujahideen sources reported 27 incidents from Herat and 6 from Farah provinces in January. With regard to intensity of fighting, this places Herat fourth in descending order of occurrence of fighting. Kabul regime sources nevertheless reported only 2 incidents from Herat and none from Farah. They continued repeating claims that "compatriots" were returning to their hearths and homes from the harsh life of refugee camps in Iran.

Radio Moscow in a broadcast on January 9 quoted an official of Najibullah government as saying that a "rebel unit" of 850 men had defected to the government side in Herat. The Radio failed to mention the date or place of the defection. Nor did it name any leader or number of the "rebel unit".

It would seem that during January Kabul regime did not send forth any large supply convoys from Torghundi, a communication centre close to the Soviet borders to Herat or

onwards to Qandahar. Only smaller scale transport plied on the main highway.

Mujahideen destroyed a tank on Herat-Torghundi road on January 12 and attacked the Herat Airport atleast twice with rockets during January. Of course, during the last three or four days of the previous month – which marked the 10th Anniversary of Soviet Aggression of Afghanistan – the Mujahideen had hammered the Airport and the adjoining military built up area repeatedly, and with more telling effect. They had then destroyed two fighter planes parked on the tarmac.

On 18 January, Urban Guerrillas once again hit the Governor's House in Herat with rockets. Kabuli forces "retaliated" by shelling some suburban communities from where the Mujahideen were supposed to have hailed. "Three Afghan civilians were martyred and 11 others wounded", Mujahideen sources reported.

Central Afghanistan

Bamiyan, Ghor and Uruzgan

As usual there was nil war report from Bamiyan province. In Ghor, Mujahideen clashed with Kabul regime forces on January 10, 11 and 22. The January 10, and 22 incidents occurred in Sharak district which lies in the extreme west of the province bordering Herat. It seemed Kabul regime forces were trying to edge out Mujahideen from here. Mujahideen claimed they had destroyed a number of vehicles and bunkers belonging to Kabul regime forces.

Earlier on January 10, Mujahideen had attacked the provincial capital, of Ghor, Chaghcharan, killing 5 and injuring 6 others. Thirty militiamen defected to Mujahideen.

According to Mujahideen sources their positions around the besieged provincial capital of Uruzgan, Tarinkot, were

bombed by Kabul regime war planes. Three Mujahideen were killed and 4 injured.

Kabul and Shomali

Kabul, Parwan, Kapisa, Laghman, Logar and Wardak

This, seemingly, was the hottest fighting front during January, accounting for 106 incidents out of 306 for the whole of Afghanistan. The tiny Logar province lying across a major highway and jumble of smaller roads and hill-tracks bore the brunt of a series of Kabul armed forces attacks. Their manifest objective was to break bottlenecks created by the Mujahideen on way to Gardez and Khost in the Paktiya province. If Khost fell, they knew, Gardez (capital of Paktiya) and Pule Alam (capital of Logar), and Kabul itself would become gravely vulnerable to Mujahideen.

Before launching major attacks on Mujahideen positions around Muhammad Agha, and further south, Pule Alam, Soviet-made aeroplanes resorted to extensive softening-up operations. Muhammad Agha was hit repeatedly. Warplanes also straffed Mujahideen and civilian transport on a Mujahideen built motorable road connecting border areas of Pakistan in Kurram Agency with Muhammad Agha. One of the more well known places thus attacked was Dubandi.

Armoured columns of the Kabul Army opened one of their main attacks from Kabul into Logar at Chakari on January 9. In the following 2 days these columns had advanced several miles past Muhammad Agha, leaving the Mujahideen held stronghold in the flanks. On January 14 and 15, major battle were fought on the Kabul-Chakari-Muhammad Agha-Pule Alam section of the Kabul-Gardez highway. Ultimately, the invading forces of Kabul had to fall back to Chakari to re-equip. In the process they lost many tanks and armoured personnel carriers, as well as 2

aircrafts. Both sides suffered heavy casualties, among them a well-known Mujahideen commander, Major Abdal Jalil.

Mujahideen sabotaged a large Kabul regime military base north of the capital Kabul in Jabul-us-Saraj hills of Parwan province on January 23. Dozens tanks and trucks were destroyed and many government soldiers killed. During the Soviet occupation the base was used primarily by Soviet troops to monitor the Salang road which links Kabul with the Soviet Union. Mujahideen claimed it was one of the biggest sabotage operations since the beginning of the Fourth Afghan War.

Kabul Airport, Kargha Cantonment and some other parts of the capital continued receiving Mujahideen rockets off and on. A car bomb explosion also took place in Kabul on January 29 killing at least 5 persons and wounded more than 100 others. The bomb explosion took place in the central part of the city in a taxi-cab.

There was not any fighting in Kapisa province, the stronghold of guerrilla leader Ahmad Shah Massoud. But, the Mujahideen reported that they had captured a KHAD (Afghan Secret Police) agent in the Punjsher valley. He was trying to smuggle Soviet made arms to Pakistan for sabotage.

In Laghman, Mujahideen hit the provincial headquarters, Mehtarlam twice, January 5 and 6.

Kabul Times, January 7, said that "organs of the Ministry of State Security had bought one unit of surface-to-air long range Stinger missiles and 7 US-made communication units from the opposition armed criminal extremists in the area related to Paghman district and Jalrez sub-district of Wardak province".

Psychological Warfare Themes

Radio Kabul:

Given below were the major Kabul Radio propaganda themes during January 1990, in descending order of recurrence.

1. Pakistan's wrong and unrealistic policies towards Afghanistan and un-called-for involvement in Afghan and Tribal Affairs.
2. Differences amongst the ranks of Counter-Revolutionaries resulting in bloodshed. They are losing credibility with their foreign "masters".
3. Gains of Kabul regime's peaceful policies and National reconciliation Plan.
4. PDPA government has gained in strength since Soviet troops withdrawal.
5. United States' involvement in the internal affairs of Afghanistan in pursuit of its imperialistic designs.

Radio Moscow

Given below were the major Moscow media propaganda themes pertaining to the Afghan Issue during January 1990, in descending order of recurrence.

1. Mujahideen's indulgence in acts of terrorism, rifts in their ranks, non-representative nature of AIG.
2. Pakistan's interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and its unrealistic policies towards regional issues.
3. United States' interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.
4. PDPA has strengthened its position and its prospects for playing an effective political role in future are bright.
5. Settlement of the Afghan Issue through negotiations and dialogue rather than seeking a solution through war.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORT
MARCH 1990

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORT

MARCH 1990

After grim and dogged fighting for almost two months, a Kabul regime expeditionary force succeeded in reaching the besieged capital city of Paktiya, Gardez, in the third week of February. When they had set out from Kabul in late December the force consisted of about 100 tanks and between 600 to 700 trucks carrying desperately needed arms, ammunition and food for the besieged garrison in Khost. Khost had been sustained for several months by air, but recent Mujahideen advances in the Tor Ghar hills, 6 to 10 kilometres south of the city, rendered the local airstrip extremely difficult to operate. So, Kabul forces must reach Khost – if they could ---- as soon as possible. Yet, there still were about 100 kilometres to go, between Gardez and Khost, over a web of meandering roads through daunting hills. The chances are that each kilometre of these 100 kilometres would be keenly contested by Mujahideen. Possibly, the Mujahideen are not so well provided with appropriate tools of war, as are the Kabul troops, in this theatre; yet, as far as numbers, morale and leadership are concerned, the Mujahideen are the more impressive of the contenders.

Whether, or not, the Kabul regime can relieve, and hold, Khost cantonment and airstrip against the Mujahideen, will have a deep, perhaps deciding, influence on the remaining course of the Fourth Afghan War.

Mujahideen sources reported 222 incidents in 22 out of the 31 Afghan provinces during February 1990.

These 222 military engagements comprised 52 Mujahideen strikes on mobile targets and 108 strikes against immobile targets. Kabul forces conducted at least 27 air and 35 ground strikes against Mujahideen fixed positions or groups.

The highest intensity of conflict was reported from Paktiya, Kabul and Logar, followed by Qandahar and Faryab.

Urban conflict was witnessed in and around 13 provincial capitals, including the major cities of Kabul and Qandahar.

Southern Afghanistan

Nimroz, Helmand, Qandahar, Zabul and Ghazni

Sporadic fighting continued in Qandahar province in February, both sides taking the initiative whenever a chance lent itself to them. Nevertheless, no major moves were made, nor did any important garrison town or centre change hands. Mujahideen attacks on Qandahar city and the adjoining airport were also fewer. Here the regime lost only a single aircraft towards the middle of the month. This was a large military transport aeroplane flying out of Qandahar airport. An official spokesman in Kabul said 26 persons were killed in the crash, which according to him, was due to "technical fault": but, the possibility of sabotage could not be ruled out, altogether. Possibly, a bomb had been placed in the aircraft, by (a) Mujahideen infiltrators, or (b) one of the quarrelling communist factions, Khalq or Parcham. Those killed included some senior officers of the Afghan Air Force.

Among the Mujahideen exploits during February was a daring inroad on a newly constructed military cantonment on "Manzelbagh Road", in the outskirts of Qandahar city, on February 7. A day earlier, they had killed 3 militiamen in Dand, another suburb of Qandahar city.

On their part, a formation of Soviet-made helicopter gunships successfully surprised a Mujahideen "lashkar" about 70 kilometres east of Qandahar. Apparently, the "lashkar" was proceeding to Qandahar. The Mujahideen suffered a number of casualties and were forced to fall back on Spin Boldak, a Mujahideen strongpoint on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border across Chaman. Three Mujahideen who strayed off from their main force were carried off to Qandahar by the helicopters. This happened on February 24.

On February 26, Urban Guerrillas attacked a motorcade presumably carrying the provincial governor, Lt. General

Abdul Haq Aloomi, somewhere between the Governor's House and Qandahar Airport. Aloomi escaped unhurt, but one of his aides, a certain Captain Rahat was killed.

From Nimroz province, Mujahideen reported a single incident, an ambush in Kung district. Four militiamen were killed and eleven injured.

On February 9, Mujahideen conducted a vigorous rocket attack on the besieged garrison town of Grishik. Grishik is an important communications centre in Helmand province on the Qandahar-Herat-Torghundi road. Thirty Kabul regime soldiers were believed to have been killed or wounded against ten Mujahideen.

In Zabul province, Mujahideen attacked a mobile military force near Qalat Ghilzai, provincial headquarters. A tank and a truck were hit.

Mujahideen fired rockets on Kabul regime troops in Bala Hissar fort in Ghazni city on February 4.

Eastern Afghanistan

Paktika, Pakiya, Ningarhar, Kunar and Nooristan

In February 1990, in the strategic Pakiya province, each of the contenders, the Mujahideen and Kabul regime, gained atleast one local victory which could possibly have far-reaching impact on the outcome of the Fourth Afghan War:

- a) The Mujahideen gained control on a line of hills, Tor Ghar, in the immediate neighbourhood of Khost.
- b) Part of a Kabul Regime military convoy succeeded in breaking through (or by-passing) Mujahideen impediments on the Kabul-Pule-Alam-Gardez highway, and reached the provincial capital, Gardez. Another part, possibly the larger part of an estimated 700 vehicles convoy, was last heard to be between Mohammad Agha and Pule Alam.

The distance between the nearest Mujahideen outpost in Tor Ghar mountain and Khost was estimated to be about 6

kilometres. Yet, these 6 km were strewn with innumerable mines and booby traps, and unless the beleaguered garrison yields to a combination of threats and allurements, the going for them would be really tough.

The question arises: Will the Mujahideen make it? And in good time before more men and materials -- including food -- reach Khost. There are nearly 100 kilometres between Gardez and Khost. All said and done, the prospects for the Mujahideen seem to be less difficult to achieve than for the Kabul regime.

Since Paktiya's neighbouring province Paktika continued to remain devoid of Kabul Regime forces, the Mujahideen have recently moved some "lashkars" from Paktika to Paktiya. Some arms and ammunition have also been transported to Paktiya from neighbouring provinces.

On their part, Radio Kabul and Moscow reported Mujahideen attacks on government troops and establishments in Khost, Gardez and Tanai Uluswalis. Tanai is the native village of the defence Minister, General Shah Nawaz Tanai. Kabul Radio attributed these attacks to "Pakistani troops, Saudi Wahabis and Armed Extremists". Kabul Radio said hundreds of Extremists and their "allies" were killed in Paktiya during February.

On February 23, a mobile military force forged out of Jalalabad cantonment, and after crossing the Kabul river, started proceeding towards Khewa, some 20 kilometres in the north. This detachment was duly protected by armour and aircraft. Khewa is an important communication centre from where a road forks northwards into the liberated Kunar province. It would appear that the Kabul regime offensive was stopped short of Khewa on February 25 or 26.

Meantime, artillery and rocket/missile exchanges continued between Mujahideen and Kabul regime troops around Jalalabad, Samar Khel, Behsud, Syrkhrud and Chapperhar.

Earlier on February 3, a Russian made missile fell in Khewa district near a Mujahideen gathering. Three Mujahideen were killed and a jeep destroyed.

Likewise, on February 28, Kabul regime aeroplanes bombed Qazi Qala, south of Jalalabad. Several "unarmed civilians" were killed in the bombardment.

There was nil war reported from Kunar, as also from Nooristan and Paktika provinces.

Northern Afghanistan

Badakhshan, Takhar, Kunduz, Baghlan, Samangan, Balkh, Jowzjan, Saripul, Faryab and Badghis

Mujahideen ambushed a large military convoy between Kunduz city and Khawajaghar in Kunduz province on February 18. A number of high ranking Kabul regime officers, including Major General Ilyasuddin, Governor of Takhar province, who were travelling in the convoy, were killed during fighting which continued for three days. The demise of the Takhar Governor in "hand-to-hand" fighting with Mujahideen was confirmed by Kabul Radio. It said that the dead body of the Governor was buried in the Cemetery of Martyrs at a special ceremony on February 23. General Ilyasuddin was the Chairman of the Takhar Provincial Defence Council.

In Takhar, as also in almost all the ten provinces of Northern Afghanistan, Mujahideen continued attacking and interfering with government transport along the roads connecting the Soviet Union with the Afghan capital Kabul. Northern Afghanistan has more than 1,800 kilometres of common frontier with the four Muslim majority Soviet Republics of Central Asia, that is, Kirghizia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkministan.

Other notable ambushes that the Mujahideen laid in Northern Afghanistan were in Baghlan, Samangan and Balkh provinces. In Baghlan the main centre of their

attention was the civil and military headquarters at Khenjan and Pule Khumri. Khenjan and Pule Khumri were hit repeatedly, as also a stretch of road between Pule Khumri and Aibak city, the capital of Samangan province. Here on February 23, a number of tanks and armoured personnel carriers were destroyed. In Balkh too the Mujahideen attacked a convoy coming from the Soviet Union near the river port of Hairatan. Mujahideen said that a vehicle hit during this operation had carried "napalm bombs".

In Jowzjan province, the Mujahideen damaged a stretch of gas pipeline.

Faryab was once again the venue of widespread clashes between Mujahideen and Kabul regime troops. Fighting mainly centred on Maimana (provincial capital) and Sheren Tagab districts. Kabul regime troops had last month launched a large scale offensive and actually taken some Mujahideen positions in these areas. In February Mujahideen strove to take them back. Mujahideen reports said they had killed 120 militiamen in Juma Bazar and Quezel Qushalq. Some tanks were also hit. More than 100 "local persons" and Mujahideen were killed in bombardment by Soviet-made aeroplanes.

In a report broadcast on February 5, Kabul Radio said: "A 5000 member armed group belonging to the extremist Rabbani band joined the National Reconciliation process of the Government in Chamtal Uluswali of Balkh province recently". The Radio also magnified differences between various factions of the Mujahideen in Northern Afghanistan.

Western Afghanistan

Herat, Farah

Herat, as also many parts of Afghanistan, were suffering from the after-effects of a long drought and consequent famine in February. The Governor of Herat admitted that quarter of the 1.3 million population of Herat was "starving".

He, however, did not agree with a United Nations' report that families were selling their children for survival. The famine was accentuated by a plague of locusts, triggering another wave of migration to neighbouring Iran. Kabul Radio, nevertheless, continued to harp on the theme "our compatriots" are returning from Refugees Camps in Iran.

The Kabul Times, February 18, said: "For further enhancement and consolidation of peace and security, fortified trenches have been created around Herat city and sufficient number of security posts have also been set up on the First and Second Security Belts of the City".

About security of the two major roads connecting Herat with the Soviet Union and Iran, Kabul Times Said: "The security of Herat-Torghundi and Herat-Islam Qala highways is maintained by the organs of the armed forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, and that of Herat-Shindand highway is maintained by the tribal battalions and the Special Order Detachment of the province. They vigilantly foil the heinous plots of the enemy in time, and are well equipped with light and heavy weapons".

Nevertheless, the Mujahideen during the month of February carried out several successful operations against Kabul Regime troops in Herat city and various other parts of Herat province. In and around Herat city their targets included the headquarters of the 4th Armoured Battalion. In an attack on this formation, reported on February 5, at least 34 soldiers were killed or wounded and several vehicles hit. In Herat city, the Governor's House and Khad offices were again attacked with rockets. Urban guerrillas exploded a bomb in a cinema hall in Herat city on February 12, while a Russian film was being screened.

On their part, Soviet-made aircraft bombed Mujahideen positions on February 23 in Karez Ilyas, Dashak and Jora areas.

In Farah province, Mujahideen fired rockets on the large shindand airbase on February 7. They also attacked security

posts in Bala Bolak district, February 22. Brigade headquarters in the provincial capital, Farah city, airlifted men and material to the security posts in Bala Bolak. One of the helicopters thus employed was shot down.

Central Afghanistan

Bamiyan, Ghor and Uruzgan

There was nil war report from the Mujahideen side from Bamiyan and Ghor provinces.

But, Radio Kabul, February 11, reported "serious clashes" in Ghor between "Gulbuddin and Rabbani bands". In these clashes 5 Mujahideen were supposed to have been killed and 10 injured (from both sides).

Soviet-made aircraft attacked rural communities in the outskirts of Tarin Kot, capital of Uruzgan province, on February 1. These localities were suspected of harbouring Mujahideen. At least one person was killed and 3 others injured in this attack.

Kabul and Shomali

Kabul, Parwan, Kapisa, Laghman, Logar and Wardak

Kabul-Logar sector, alongwith Paktiya, saw intense fighting in February. Its significance may not be isolated from the fate of the strategic Kabul regime cantonment of Khost, currently under serious attacks from all the four sides. So, Kabul must relieve Khost at any cost: and indeed, Kabul did fit out a gigantic mobile force to do it. At the end of the first phase of the project they achieved a notable success, when on February 23, it was claimed that detachment of tanks from Kabul had pushed through to Gardez via Mohammad Agha and Pule Alam, Logar province. Some reports said the larger part of the convoy -- comprising heavy trucks was still in Logar, somewhere near Mohammad Agha.

Usually reliable sources said the convoy emanating from Kabul in January was divided in three parts. The first part, consisting of heavy vehicles tried to advance on Logar road. The second part took a more westerly direction, after taking a detour from about Mohammad Agha. The vehicles which reached Gardez travelled on a third route which passed through the Waghan Pass, 46 miles south of Kabul.

Of course, Kabul regime had to pay a very heavy price for their hazardous advance to Gardez through Logar. Another of their generals -- Colonel General Gul Agha -- who was travelling in a leading tank was hit by an anti-tank missile and was killed near Mohammad Agha town on January 31. Pitched battles between Mujahideen and Kabul regime forces were reported on February 7, 10, 16, 20 and 26, taking a heavy toll of men, transport and weapons.

Meanwhile, Mujahideen kept up their pressure on Kabul with rocket and missile attacks. Both Kabul and Moscow Radio reported several attacks over the month. Scores, if not hundreds, of people were killed in the suburban and industrial areas of the city on February 1, 5, 8, 17, 20, 21, and 25. A statement issued by the official Bakhtar News Agency described Cluster missiles as barbarous weapons of mass extermination, which had been supplied to the Opposition by the United States via Pakistan.

Kabul-Moscow media reported on February 23 that in a series of operations the Afghan Security Forces had killed and injured more than 400 rebels in the suburbs of Kabul. Similarly, the Security Forces had captured a quantity of arms and ammunition. It would be difficult to vouchsafe for the authenticity of these reports, but both Kabul regime and Mujahideen sources confirm clashes in the suburbs of Kabul, mainly Paghman.

Kabul Radio also said that "organs of the State Security Ministry" had purchased two ground-to-air missiles from a Mujahideen Commander in the outskirts of Shakardara Uluswali of Kabul province on February 20.

In the adjoining Parwan province, Mujahideen attacked the Bagram airbase on February 6. Some hangers and barracks were hit. They also attacked military transport near Deh-e-Sabz (February 6) and Charikar (February 19). Security posts were fired on in Jabul-us-Siraj and Charikar.

Mujahideen did not report any activity from Kapisa and Laghman provinces, but Kabul Radio said there had been exchange of fire between "Gulbuddin and Muhammadi groups" in Alingar Uluswali of Laghman province. The Radio also said that nine extremists were killed and 11 others captured when the Security Forces ambushed a Mujahideen supply convoy in Laghman province on February 18.

Mujahideen sources said that they had shot down a MIG-23 jet fighter of the Kabul Government with anti-aircraft guns in Darra-e-Zargar area of Wardak province on February 11.

Psychological Warfare Themes

Radio Kabul:

Given below the major Kabul Radio propaganda themes during February 1990, in descending order of recurrence.

1. National Reconciliation Policy, and dialogue are the only desirable ways for resolving Afghanistan crisis.
2. Mujahideen terrorist activities, and increasing differences in their ranks create hatred against them among Afghan masses.
3. Pakistan's continued interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and violation of Geneva Accords.
4. Strengthening of Kabul regime position and its increasing popularity among masses.

5. United States' and Saudi Arabian interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and their efforts for spreading "Wahabism" in Afghanistan.

Radio Moscow:

Given below were Moscow media propaganda themes pertaining to the Afghanistan Issue during February 1990, in descending order of recurrence.

1. Pakistan's nuclear "fantasy" especially in the context of French President's recent visit to Pakistan.
2. Kabul regime's efforts for peaceful settlement of the Afghan Issue make its position stronger among Afghan masses.
3. Pakistan is adding to its own economic and political instability by taking extra-territorial interest in Kashmir and Central Asia.
4. Mujahideen terrorist activities and involvement in drug peddling.
5. External interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, especially by USA and Saudi Arabia.

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORT
APRIL 1990

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORT

APRIL 1990

The Najibullah regime in Kabul claimed on March 7 to have foiled an attempted coup by Defence Minister Shah Nawaz Tanai after 20-hours of fierce fighting that left hundreds dead or wounded. The regime's Deputy Foreign Minister, Abdul Baqi Samandari told journalists that the government had offered a reward for the capture, dead or alive, of General Tanai.

In Peshawar Resistance sources said a Soviet-made Antonov-12 transport plane carrying several top Afghan military officers had landed somewhere close to the border of Pakistan. Three Afghan generals and four brigadiers were among atleast 12 people on board. Shah Nawaz Tanai was also rumoured to have arrived in Pakistan along with some of his immediate family members.

That did not, however, spell end of Tanai's initiative to overthrow the Najib government. Soon afterwards, the Defence Minister met foreign correspondents – representing among others international news agencies Reuters and AFP and BBC – in Logar province, 30 or 40 miles south of Kabul. He was coordinating moves with the Mujahideen.

Meanwhile, some Soviet-made fighters/bombers and helicopters, supposedly belonging to the rebel Defence Minister Shah Nawaz Tanai's sympathizers landed in the Mujahideen liberated Paktika province on March 25. That may as well be the beginning of an air force for the resistance.

Southern Afghanistan

Nimroz, Helmand, Qandahar, Zabul and Ghazni

Defence Minister Shah Nawaz Tanai's attempted coup in the first week of March encouraged Mujahideen in Southern Afghanistan – as also in some other parts – to accelerate the

tempo of their activities. Vigorous fighting thus took place in Qandahar, Zabul and Ghazni provinces. The provincial headquarters of Zabul, Qalat-e-Ghilzai, which had successfully defied Mujahideen onslaughts over the years, was again invested with larger "lashkars". On March 8, a multipronged attack won them several security posts whose defenders ran to the Qalat "citidal" which overlooks the approaches to the city. Many others surrendered to Mujahideen. All approaches to the city and its outskirts were now in the hands of the Mujahideen. But, the "citidal" where the main body of regime troops was concentrated, continued to hold its own. The besieged garrison was protected by three successive fields of landmines in the maze of an intricate system of trenches, bunkers and underground concrete pill-boxes.

In Qandahar province, the Urban Guerrillas – the hit-and-run type – were more effective. They struck the Central Jail of Qandahar with rockets on March 5, 11 and 17. During the March 5 attack the main gate and parts of an adjoining wall were blasted, enabling an unascertained number of prisoners to escape. The Mujahideen also attacked Airport and Manzal Bagh camping grounds of the Army.

Atleast one Russian-made jet fighter was shot down near Qandahar Airport.

On their part Kabul regime media sources reported Mujahideen attacks on government troops and establishments in Tor Kotal, Gardani Baba and Sarkuza areas.

Meanwhile, Mujahideen set up local Government institutions - Local Councils - in the liberated areas of Spin Boldak, Dand, Panjwai and Shoraback.

There was nil report from Nimroz province.

Helmand province too was quiet, more or less.

By far the largest part of Helmand has been evacuated by Kabul regime forces. A sizeable patch of it was controlled by a maverick guerilla leader, Mullah Nasim Akhundzada.

His detractors alleged that he had set up a large opium farm and indulged in contraband trade in narcotics.

Mullah Nasim Akhundzada during one of his frequent visits to Peshawar was assassinated in mysterious circumstances on March 25. Nobody owned responsibility for the killing, but rumour-mongers attributed it to one of the following three quarters:

1. A rival guerrilla group with which he shared a vendetta in Helmand.
2. KHAD (Najib's Secret Police).
3. A foreign government which was deeply interested in suppressing the cultivation of opium in Afghanistan.

Eastern Afghanistan

Paktika, Pakiya, Ningarhar, Kunar and Nooristan

A number of Soviet-made aircraft – 7 fighters/bombers and 4 helicopters – belonging to the rebel Defence Minister Shah Nawaz Tanai's outfit landed in the Mujahideen liberated Paktika province on March 25. Earlier reports had suggested that the Mujahideen were repairing some abandoned airfields at Urgoon and Sharna.

Sharna once was the provincial capital of the Kabul regime in Paktika province. Urgoon lies on the famous Gomal Pass, one of the major routes connecting Central Asia with South Asia.

It was now clear whether these aircraft were the same or included some of those that had flown out of Bagram Airport and landed behind Mujahideen lines in Nangarhar on March 6-7, or were fresh arrivals. General Tanai was known to have links with the Afghan Air Force before his attempted coup. In fact, some aircraft taking off from Bagram Airbase had bombed the Presidential Palace in Kabul in support of Tanai's failed coup.

A Soviet war correspondent for the Moscow newspaper KRANSNAYA ZVEZDA, 20 March, gives an interesting

appraisal of the war situation, as he sees it, in Paktiya under the caption "A Front at the Walls of Khost". Special correspondent Lieutenant Colonel A Olinik, in his despatch said:

Khost is the administrative centre of a border district. Fierce fighting has been under way here for three weeks now. The city has to all intents and purposes been blockaded by superior insurgent forces. The mountain which links it with Gardez is held by the opposition. The only thread linking the heroic garrison with Kabul is an air service. However, it passes over a considerable area of opposition-controlled territory.

Why has Khost been chosen as a target for an insurgent offensive? What forces and means are they using to storm the city? I put those questions to Colonel General Amanuddin (name as transliterated), chief of the Afghan General Staff.

In more than ten years of war Khost has repeatedly found itself under an insurgent blockade, Colonel General Amanuddin said. And each time the garrison together with the city's population has successfully repulsed the insurgents' attacks. The national flag has proudly flown over Matun Heights all these years. The insurgents' current offensive is linked rather to the opposition leaders' determination to take revenge for their defeat at Jalalabad. That lesson was not to their liking. So they decided on a different course of action. Additionally, there is an airfield in Khost and a well-developed trading system. So, if they won, the so-called "transitional government" could be installed there. Moreover, it is just 30 km from the Pakistani border.

In the first few days of March, Colonel General Amanuddin continued, the insurgents attempted to storm the city. Contrary to the provocative claims of Western radio voices, this attack was in no way linked to the putsch in Kabul. Not a single sub-unit in the garrison supported the

former defence minister, even though he is a member of the local Tanai tribe.

The first armed opposition strike was against the 25th Infantry Division and the 2nd Border Brigade on Tore Ghara Heights. The insurgents, outnumbering the defenders of the mountain ridge by three or four to one, broke through the defences using tanks, artillery, and rocket launchers, seized Tour Ghara Heights – which dominates the surrounding area – and dug in on it. They then brought up heavy artillery and rocket launchers, which they have been using to shell the city and the airfield intensively every day.

Despite the enemy's numerical superiority, the garrison headed by Lieutenant General Faruq is steadfastly holding out and inflicting tangible blows against the insurgents. Our combat aircraft and rocket artillery are operating here with great effectiveness.

The overall ringleader of the insurgent forces at Khost Colonel General Amanuddin explained, is Jalaluddin Haqqani. The Khost offensive, as intelligence shows, is actually being led by representatives of the Pakistani Army General Staff. Pakistani helicopters have been supplying the insurgents with weapons and ammunitions in the regions of Dzhavar, Jaji Maydan, and certain other areas deep in Afghan territory.

(Olinik) What are the insurgents' tactics at Khost at the moment?

(Amanuddin) A new tactical point in the insurgents' action is that, fearing attacks by our aircraft and missiles, they are operating in dispersed groups of not more than 10-15 men. Before an offensive the insurgents rely on using heavy armaments and organizing air defences, up on the heights they have seized, in order to repulse strikes by our aircraft. The opposition forces have a centralized material and technical supply system, in which even nongovernment organizations and firms on Pakistani territory are involved.

In short, the opposition is now doing everything to take the garrison by force.

Things are hard in Khost right now. The front line is outside its walls. But the unbowed garrison is hanging on and repulsing the insurgents' attacks. And the national flag of Afghanistan continues to fly on Matun Heights over the city. (Lt. Col. Olinik concludes).

Mujahideen media coverage of the fighting around Khost lacks the depth and professionalism that of the Russian correspondent, yet like more other reporters Olinik too wears tinted glasses which could distort vision. So, we must add the Russian account a bit of what the Mujahideen and Western correspondents say.

It would appear that even though the fighting in Khost had begun before Tanai's attempted coup, it slowed down during the coup. Some observers had hoped that the military garrison of Khost would support Tanai, because he hailed from a neighbouring suburban tribe, Tanai; and also because the disaffected Khalq group of the Ruling Party had considerable influence amongst the troops deployed in Khost. Shah Nawaz was a Khalqi.

However, after the failure of the coup, Najib government apparently re-organized its troops in Khost very fast. The land route between Khost and Gardez was blocked: but Najib was able to pour in some supplies by air. Aerial bombardment of Mujahideen positions in the surrounding areas including firing of Scud missiles, was intensified.

Large "lashkars" of Mujahideen made several attempts to break into Khost. To begin with, they made appeals on loudspeakers to government troops to lay down their arms: the besieged troops also announced on loudspeakers that they would fight till last. When Mujahideen efforts to cajole or coerce the Khost garrison failed around March 10, they once again started attacking the Airport and cantonment areas with greater vigour. The din and noise of the battle was so

loud that, according to BBC, people residing in the Pakistani town of Miranshah – some 40 miles away – could hear it.

Mujahideen claimed they had shot down two aeroplanes near Khost. They also attacked Kabul regime troops and establishments in Gurbuz, Ismailkhel, Tanai and Yaqubi.

In the neighbouring Ningarhar province, Mujahideen and Najib government troops continued firing on each other with long-range artillery and machineguns. Both sides were believed to have suffered casualties. According to Radio Kabul "extremist groups backed by Pakistanis" shelled government security posts in Samarkhel, Behsud, Chaparhar, Surkhrud, Kan and Kathargah. Kabul Radio claimed that hundreds of "extremists" were killed in the fighting.

Mujahideen sources said, March 9, they had shot down a Soviet-made jet fighter aircraft somewhere along the Jalalabad-Kabul highway.

Meanwhile, in the liberated Kunar province the newly installed Mujahideen administration started holding elections for a 100-member Provincial Council, Shoor, on March 1. On the following day, a team of foreign correspondents visited Kunar province and saw long queues of voters in the provincial headquarters of Assadabad and Sarkano. But the leaders of the six component parties of the Peshawar based Afghan Interim Government seemed to have boycotted the polls.

There was nil war report from Nooristan.

Northern Afghanistan

Badakhshan, Takhar, Kunduz, Baghlan, Samangan, Balkh, Jowzjan, Saripul, Faryab and Badghis

Moscow Television Service in Russian, 20 March, reported that "Afghan Extremists" were training saboteurs for subversive activities against the Soviet Union. It showed a person, named Sayyed Nadir, who said he had been trained

by the Special Services of one of the extremist groupings of the Afghan opposition, the Islamic Society of Afghanistan, for subversion on the territory of the Soviet Union.

Sayyed Nadir told an interviewer:

"When we entered the school four years ago, we were taught the techniques and tactics of heavy armament utilization, and specifically that of the Sackr-20 and 30 missiles. We were also set assignments of mining the Soviet Union's territory. The next assignment which was set was that of recruiting Soviet citizens. Apart from that, we were taught to carry out brain-washing and make films".

Sayyed Nadir said there were 60 persons in his class. Their teachers were from Pakistan, the United States, France and Saudi Arabia.

The Russian interviewer said that according to maps made available to them by the Najib government "Afghan Extremists" had already crossed the Soviet Union's border from the Afghan provinces of Faryab, Jowzjan, Samangan, Kunduz and Takhar.

All the same no big battles of the magnitude of previous months occurred in Northern Afghanistan in March, even though sporadic fighting was reported from the provinces. At one stage on 10 March, the Mujahideen were close to achieving a big victory in the important Baghlan town of Pul-e-Khumri, when they entered its outskirts. Pul-e-Khumri is a key communication centre where many provincial government offices have been shifted from the capital, Baghlan city. However, the Mujahideen had to make a hasty retreat on the arrival of government reinforcements.

Mujahideen made several successful attacks on regime transport along the Salang highway in Baghlan and other provinces through which it passes.

Mujahideen also fired rockets on Kabul regime troops and establishments in the capital cities of Badakhshan (Faizabad), Kunduz (Kunduz city), Samangan (Aibak), Balkh (Mazar-e-Sharif) and Faryab (Maimana).

In Kunduz city fighting broke out between the supporters of President Najib and Defence Minister Shah Nawaz Tanai on March 7. It seemed the Najibullah faction gained the upper hand. It was reported on March 15 that eighteen Kabul Army Officers, including four Brigadiers, had been disarmed and arrested in Kunduz, apparently by Najib government functionaries.

Over the month, Kabul regime media reported several instances of "extremists" and "oppositionists" giving up hostilities and joining the "process of reconciliation", as also cases of internecine fighting between the Rabbani and Hikmatyar factions of Mujahideen. In its issue of 5th March, Kabul Times said; "An opposition group of 5,000 members, 1,000 of whom were equipped with weapons – and led by Sajuddin – gave up the war recently and joined the humane and Islamic policy of National Reconciliation in the surrounding areas of Saripul province".

Western Afghanistan

Herat, Farah

The Defence Minister Shah Nawaz Tanai's attempted coup apparently did not lead to any armed show-down between the rival Khalq and Parcham factions of the Armed Forces in Herat. Nonetheless, elements of the 4th Army Division stationed in Herat defected and crossed over to the Mujahideen. Their numbers could not be accurately ascertained. They were supposed to include some very high officers.

Meanwhile, the Mujahideen continued attacking targets in Herat city and in the Shindand district where lies the large Shindand airbase. In the Shindand district the Mujahideen made fresh territorial gains in the close proximity of the district headquarters. They also attacked transport on the roads, accounting for several tanks and trucks.

On the other hand, Najibullah government officials claimed a notable victory on the political front in Herat, in that, they said, five groups of Afghan guerrillas had agreed to "cooperate" with the government. BBC's Indian born correspondent in Kabul, Deepak Tripathi said, March 30, that President Najibullah was on a visit to Herat at that time. He was accompanied by his Minister of National Security, General Yaqubi. They were meeting among others "religious leaders" according to Tripathi.

On 2 March, Mujahideen attacked Kabul regime security posts in the capital city of Farah province, Farah city.

Central Afghanistan

Bamiyan, Ghor and Uruzban

There was nil war report from Bamiyan, as also from Uruzgan.

In the Ghor province, Mujahideen opened a new offensive in the Taiwara district on March 1. On March 11 more than 50 regime soldiers surrendered themselves to the Mujahideen in that district. They brought along a quantity of arms and ammunition, including rocket launchers.

On March 19, the Kabul regime governor of Ghor province, Abdul Rahman, contacted Mujahideen leaders and offered to join their ranks on certain conditions.

On assurance of personal safety, he actually arrived at a Mujahideen camp in the outskirts of the provincial capital, Chaghcharan. Abdul Rahman demanded that his governorship and command of local troops must not be disturbed... Apparently the "negotiations" failed and the governor made off to an unknown destination – possibly to Chaghcharan itself – in the helicopter that had brought him to the Mujahideen camp.

* Later events in Herat showed Najib's expectations were misplaced

Kabul and Adjacent Provinces

Kabul, Parwan, Kapisa, Laghman, Loghar and Wardak

About 1:45 pm on March 6, unidentified aircraft tried to bombard the Presidential Palace and some army units mutinied at Bagram, an Army and Airforce base a few miles away from Kabul. The bombers were repulsed by anti-aircraft fire. The mutinous units at Bagram were overpowered by the loyal troops after exchange of fire.

What happened in Kabul on March 6, was not something altogether unexpected. The government in Kabul had unearthed a plot to overthrow it in December 1989, when more than 100 Army Officers were arrested. Documentary evidence at that time was made public, showing their links with Gulbuddin Hikmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami group in Peshawar.

BBC's Kabul based correspondent, Deepak Tripathi, reporting on March 10 said: "The President Palace, near my hotel, has been hit by bombs and rockets several times during the fighting on Tuesday and Wednesday. We saw the main building and the Palace compound, which Dr. Najibullah uses. It had been hit and its roof had been considerably damaged. We were told the President was sitting in his office when several bombs came, one dropping only within ten metres. The bomb had left a big hole on the ground and a security room had been completely destroyed. The outer walls of the central palace were leaning and it was clearly dangerous for any one to stay near them. About two hundred yards from the President's quarters there is another building where Dr. Najibullah has his office. The glasses of the doors had hit the upper wall of the building. The main headquarters of the defence Ministry and its political department had suffered extensive damage.

Following the failure of the coup – which evidently had come very close to success – the ruling Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) held its meeting in Kabul on 15

March and expelled 24 members of the Politburo and Central Committee of the Party. Those members included, Defence Minister General Shah Nawaz Tanai and Air Force Chief Qadar Aqa.

General Shah Nawaz Tanai was replaced by General Aslam Watanyar as Defence Minister.

Mujahideen sources in Peshawar reported that fighting had flared up in Herat and Kunduz provinces between Khalq and Parcham factions of the PDPA ruling party.

Meanwhile, the Mujahideen in Kabul blasted a large arms and ammunition depot resulting in a large number of killed and wounded. Likewise in the near-by Koh-e-Safi area, Mujahideen attacked regime troops and establishments, and killed 26 soldiers, among them 2 brigadiers.

On March 7/8, heavy fighting was reported from Bagram Air Force base which lies in Parwan province, north of Kabul. A part of it had come under the control of pro-Tanai forces. Some fighters/bombers were allowed to take off from Bagram to bombard Kabul. Some of these aeroplanes hit Najib regime establishments in Darul Aman, and Chargha. Still others possibly flew off to Mazar-e-Sharif and Shindand (in Najibullah's control), the liberated Territories of Ningarhar, Paktika and Pakistan. Mujahideen also attacked Kabul regime transport along the Salang Highway between Jabul-us-Siraj and Charikar. A number of tanks and trucks were hit.

In the Logar province near Mohammad Agha, a large regime mobile force-protecting a convoy on way to Gardez had bogged down against Mujahideen resistance. It was ordered to return to Kabul. Some elements of this force, however, defected and joined the Mujahideen, or General Tanai's camp.

As far General Shah Nawaz Tanai, he met a group of foreign correspondents at his base in Logar province in the south of the Afghan capital. A BBC correspondent, Liz

Ducet, who was also among the journalists quoted the General as saying:

"I am an army officer, not a guerrilla: a Muslim, not a Mujahid.....still a member of the Ruling Party, but not a communist. I did make a mistake, but now I have joined hands with the resistance in struggle to topple the Najib government".

General Tanai said his Bagram Air Force base had been heavily bombed by Soviet planes and his supplies had been cut off. He was now thus operating from mobile bases in the North-West and North-East of Kabul.

There was nil war report from Kapisa.

In Laghman, Mujahideen attacked some security posts in the vicinity of Darunta Dam.

In the Wardak province, Mujahideen continued attacks on the capital city, Maidan Shahr.

Psychological Warfare Themes

Radio Kabul:

Given below the major Kabul Radio propaganda themes in March 1990, in descending order of recurrence.

1. ISI and other Aliens are using traitors, Shah Nawaz-Gulbuddin, in a bid to topple the legitimate government of President Najibullah.
2. The Kabul regime is striving to resolve the Afghan Conflict through its Policy of National Reconciliation.
3. A state of distrust, terror and rivalry is deepening among the Irreconcilables and Extremists.
4. Pakistan's abandonment of Geneva Accords and stances vis-a-vis other states is damaging the Afghan cause. It is prompted by the Imperialist designs of the Panjabis.

5. The Afghan government is becoming stronger with the passage of time; and, that indicates no one can defeat the Afghan Nation.

Radio Moscow:

Given below the major Moscow media propaganda themes concerning Afghanistan and Pakistan in March 1990, in descending order of recurrence.

1. Coup attempt against legal government of Afghanistan.
2. A political settlement of the Afghanistan conflict would be easier to achieve than a military solution.
3. Mujahideen are deeply involved in terrorism and drug trafficking.
4. Pakistan is violating the Geneva Accords.
5. Pakistan is involved in the disorder in Kashmir. At the same time, it is enhancing its military capabilities vis-a-vis its neighbours.

APPENDIX-1

JANUARY 1990

URBAN CONFLICT

Urban conflict was witnessed in and around 17 provincial capitals including the major cities of Kabul, Qandahar, Kunduz and Herat.

SOVIET-KABUL COVERAGE

According to Radio Kabul reports security forces conducted 72 operations in 10 provinces. According to figures cited by Kabul media, 932 "counter revolutionaries" were killed and 1,092 wounded. It was reported that counter-revolutionary elements carried out 79 "acts of subversion" in 6 provinces.

DEFECTIONS

According to Mujahideen reports 494 Afghan troops capitulated to Mujahideen. Another 80 troops defected and joined the ranks of Mujahideen. Defections took place in 5 Afghan provinces.

AERIAL LOSSES

The air losses decreased slightly in the month of January as compared to December 1989. During this month 7 aircraft were destroyed on the airfields of Khost, Herat and Bagram. In addition to that 8 aircraft and 2 helicopters were shot down in the provinces of Paktiya, Kunduz, Faryab, Farah and Logar.

HUMAN LOSSES

Human losses reported by Mujahideen for January 1990 were:

Kabul casualties	738 Killed	803 Wounded
Mujahideen casualties	230 Killed	203 Wounded
Civilian casualties	180 Killed	100 Wounded

Human losses reported by Kabul media were:

Mujahideen casualties	932 Killed	1,092 Wounded
Civilian casualties	70 Killed	197 Wounded
Kabul casualties	21 Killed	104 Wounded

APPENDIX-2

PROVINCE-WISE ENGAGEMENTS IN JANUARY 1990 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Total Engagements	Provincial Capitals	Engagements Inside City	Vicinity of City
Bordering Pakistan				
Nimroz	-	Zaranj	-	-
Helmand	4	Lashkargah	-	-
Qandahar	22	Qandahar	8	6
Zabul	1	Kalat Gilzai	-	-
Ghazni	5	Ghazni	1	2
Paktika	-	Sharna	-	-
Paktiya	21	Gardez	1	-
Ningarhar	4	Jalalabad	-	2
Kunar	-	Chagha Sarai	-	-
Nooristan	-	Nooristan	-	-
Bordering USSR				
Badakhshan	2	Faizabad	-	-
Takhar	-	Taloqan	-	-
Kunduz	10	Kunduz	4	2
Baghlan	22	Baghlan	1	1
Samangan	16	Samangan	4	1
Balkh	11	Mazar Sharif	1	1
Jozjan	1	Sheberghan	-	1
Sari-pul	-	Sari-pul	-	-
Faryab	32	Maimana	-	-
Badghis	-	Qala Nau	-	-
Bordering Iran				
Herat	27	Herat	9	7
Farah	6	Farah	1	3
(Nimroz)	-	(Zaranj)	-	-
Central Provinces				
Bamiyan	-	Bamiyan	-	-
Ghor	7	Chaghcharan	1	1
Uruzgan	5	Tarin Kot	-	1
Kabul and Adjacent				
Kabul	35	Kabul	2	-
Parwan	25	Charikar	1	1
Kapisa	1	Mahmud-i-Raqi	-	-
Laghman	3	Mehtarlam	2	1
Logar	39	Pule Alam	1	-
Wardak	3	Koteasro	-	-
TOTAL	306		37	29

APPENDIX-3

FEBRUARY 1990

SOVIET-KABUL COVERAGE

According to Radio Kabul reports security forces conducted 78 operation in 9 provinces.

Figures cited by Kabul media indicated that 1,134 Counter Revolutionaries were killed and 1,122 wounded. It was reported that Counter-Revolutionary elements carried out 113 "acts of subversion" in 5 provinces.

DEFECTIONS

According to Mujahideen reports, about 500 Afghan troops defected to Mujahideen on 7 occasions. Defection took place in 3 Afghan provinces of Zabul, Paktiya and Logar. In addition to that, 370 troops and para-military personnel capitulated to Mujahideen.

AERIAL LOSSES

The aerial losses decreased significantly in the month of February, as compared to the months of January and December. During this month two helicopters were destroyed in Khost, while 7 aircraft and 4 helicopters were shot down in the provinces of Qandahar, Paktiya, Balkh, Farah, Kabul and Logar. The two helicopters destroyed in Khost had actually hit land mines during emergency landing behind their own lines.

HUMAN LOSSES

Human losses reported by Mujahideen for February 1990 were:

Kabul casualties	549 Killed	462 Wounded
Mujahideen casualties	83 Killed	88 Wounded
Civilian casualties	125 Killed	25 Wounded

Human losses reported by Kabul media were:

Mujahideen casualties	1,134 Killed	1,122 Wounded
Civilian casualties	51 Killed	101 Wounded
Kabul casualties	64 Killed	238 Wounded

APPENDIX-4

PROVINCE-WISE ENGAGEMENTS IN FEBRUARY 1990 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Total Engagements	Provincial Capitals	Engagements Inside City	Vicinity of City
Bordering Pakistan				
Nimroz	1	Zaranj	-	-
Helmand	4	Lashkargah	1	-
Qandahar	23	Qandahar	8	4
Zabul	1	Kalat Gilzai	-	1
Ghazni	1	Ghazni	1	-
Paktika	-	Sharna	-	-
Paktiya	35	Gardez	-	1
Ningarhar	10	Jalalabad	-	1
Kunar	-	Chagha Sarai	-	-
Nooristan	-	Nooristan	-	-
Bordering USSR				
Badakhshan	6	Faizabad	-	-
Takhar	-	Taloqan	-	-
Kunduz	4	Kunduz	1	-
Baghlan	16	Baghlan	3	-
Samangan	4	Samangan	3	-
Balkh	14	Mazar Sharif	-	-
Jozjan	2	Shebergan	-	-
Sari-pul	2	Sari-pul	1	1
Faryab	-	Maimana	-	-
Badghis	-	Qala Nau	-	-
Bordering Iran				
Herat	5	Herat	9	-
Farah	4	Farah	-	-
(Nimroz)	-	(Zaranj)	-	-
Central Provinces				
Bamiyan	-	Bamiyan	-	-
Ghor	1	Chaghcharan	-	-
Uruzgan	3	Tarin Kot	-	-
Kabul and Adjacent	-	-	-	-
Kabul	32	Kabul	-	8
Parwan	13	Charikar	-	3
Kapisa	-	Mahmud-i-Raqi	-	-
Laghman	-	Mehtarlam	-	-
Logar	24	Pule Alam	-	-
Wardak	-	Koteasro	-	-
TOTAL	222		20	20

APPENDIX-5

MARCH 1990

STATISTICAL PICTURE OF THE AFGHAN WAR

Mujahideen sources reported 272 incidents in 22 out of 31 Afghan provinces during March 1990.

These 272 military engagements comprised 41 Mujahideen strikes on mobile targets and 152 strikes against immobile targets. Kabul forces conducted at least 29 air and 50 ground strikes against Mujahideen fixed positions of groups.

The highest intensity of conflict was reported from Paktiya, Qandahar, Kabul, Baghlan and Herat provinces.

URBAN CONFLICT

Urban conflict was witnessed in and around 17 provincial capitals including the major cities of Kabul, Qandahar, Jalalabad and Herat.

SOVIET-KABUL COVERAGE

According to Radio Kabul reports, security forces conducted 57 operations in 7 provinces.

According to figures cited by Kabul media 655 "Counter Revolutionaries" were killed and 685 wounded. It was reported that Counter-Revolutionary elements carried out 79 "acts of subversion" in 6 provinces.

DEFECTIONS

According to Mujahideen reports, about 6,718 Afghan troops defected to Mujahideen on 30 occasions. Defections took place in 13 Afghan provinces. Major defections took place after the coup attempt of Shah Nawaz Tanai forces in the provinces of Herat, Kabul, Parwan and Ghor.

AERIAL LOSSES

Mujahideen sources report 44 aircraft and 3 helicopters were destroyed. They included 33 aircraft destroyed on Bagram Airbase, reportedly by Russian fighter bombers to dismantle the rebel forces of Shah Nawaz Tanai.

Two aircraft and four helicopters came over the Mujahideen, two of them in Shinwar (Ningarhar) and seven aircraft in liberated Paktika province.

HUMAN LOSSES

Human losses reported by Mujahideen for March 1990 were:

Kabul casualties	598 Killed	515 Wounded
Mujahideen casualties	144 Killed	130 Wounded
Civilian casualties	491 Killed	710 Wounded

Human losses reported by Kabul media were:

Mujahideen casualties	655 Killed	685 Wounded
Civilian casualties	11 Killed	62 Wounded
Kabul casualties	101 Killed	294 Wounded

APPENDIX-6

PROVINCE-WISE ENGAGEMENTS IN MARCH 1990 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Total Engagements	Provincial Capitals	Engagements	
			Inside City	Vicinity of City
Bordering Pakistan				
Nimroz	—	Zaranj	—	—
Helmand	2	Lashkargah	2	—
Qandahar	41	Qandahar	16	3
Zabul	—	Kalat Gilzai	2	—
Ghazni	5	Ghazni	1	—
Paktika	—	Sharna	—	—
Paktiya	16	Gardez	—	1
Ningarhar	14	Jalalabad	—	4
Kunar	—	Chagha Sarai	—	—
Nooristan	—	Nooristan	—	—
Bordering USSR				
Badakhshan	3	Faizabad	—	3
Takhar	—	Taloqan	—	—
Kunduz	15	Kunduz	1	3
Baghlan	20	Baghlan	1	—
Samangan	9	Samangan	2	1
Balkh	6	Mazar Sharif	—	—
Jozjan	1	Shebergan	—	—
Sari-pul	—	Sari-pul	—	—
Faryab	11	Maimana	1	—
Badghis	—	Qala Nau	—	—
Bordering Iran				
Herat	15	Herat	4	—
Farah	4	Farah	1	1
(Nimroz)	—	(Zaranj)	—	—
Central Provinces				
Bamiyan	—	Bamiyan	—	—
Ghor	7	Chaghcharan	—	3
Uruzgan	1	Tarin Kot	—	1
Kabul and Adjacent				
Kabul	36	Kabul	9	5
Parwan	41	Charikar	1	3
Kapisa	—	Mahmud-i-Raqi	—	—
Laghman	1	Mehtarlam	—	—
Logar	13	Pule Alam	2	1
Wardak	9	Koteasro	2	2
TOTAL	272		45	30

APPENDIX-7

TOTAL MILITARY OPERATIONS COMPARATIVE DATA WITH LAST SIX MONTHS

<u>Month</u>		<u>Mujahideen Operations</u>	<u>Kabul Operations</u>	<u>Total Engagements</u>
March	1990	192	79	271
February	1990	160	62	222
January	1990	183	123	306
December	1989	174	82	256
November	1989	196	106	302
October	1989	224	149	373
September	1989	217	82	299
TOTAL		1327	683	2684

APPENDIX-8

KABUL AIRLOSSES IN LAST SEVEN MONTHS

<u>Month</u>		<u>Helicopters</u>	<u>Aeroplanes</u>	<u>Total</u>
March	1990	5	12	17
February	1990	6	7	13
January	1990	2	15	17
December	1989	8	13	21
November	1989	3	10	13
October	1989	2	14	16
September	1989	4	13	17
TOTAL		30	84	114

APPENDIX-9

HUMAN LOSSES IN LAST SEVEN MONTHS (Mujahideen Sources)

<u>Month</u>		<u>Kabul Troops Killed</u>	<u>Mujahideen Killed</u>	<u>Civilian Killed</u>	<u>Total</u>
March	1990	598	144	491	1,233
February	1990	549	83	120	752
January	1990	738	230	180	1,148
December	1989	697	72	127	896
November	1989	663	73	162	898
October	1989	927	234	188	1,349
September	1989	1065	268	220	1,553
Total		5237	1104	1488	7,828

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

A Secret Anti Najib Network Unearthed in Kabul

Reports from Kabul say that officials have unearthed a secret network of Hizb-e-Islami group. But the Hizb-e-Islami Chief Gulbadin Hikmatyar refuted this claim at a press conference in Islamabad.

In an interview, Dr. Najibullah confirmed that a secret network has been unearthed. They had chalked out a plan to assassinate our Defence Minister. This group of Gulbadin wanted to carry out subversive activities and create disturbances in the city. Hikmatyar's viewpoint in this regard is that the Afghan Army officers are fed up with the status quo in Afghanistan and they hold the Kabul regime responsible for the continuation of war. The Kabul regime is seeking excuses for the arrest of such officers and some of them have recently been arrested too. The Kabul regime is making efforts to show that it has control over the situation and can also unearth dangerous plans and conspiracies. But I assure my brothers that Kabul regime is not capable of unearthing underground activities of Hazb in Kabul.

Professor Muhammad Asim Jamdar, a head of Research Cell in the Ministry of Higher Education has recently arrived in Pakistan and has joined Mahaz-e-Milli group of the Afghan Mujahideen. When asked to throw light on the issue. He said: Radio Kabul announced late in December, 1989 that the security forces unearthed a secret network. The next day people came to know that a number of Army officers have been arrested. There had also been speculations that seven hundred other officers were missing who might have also been arrested. When Shah Nawaz Tanai came to know, he openly announced his opposition to Najib and ordered the officers under his command to be on alert. When relations between Najibullah and Shah Nawaz Tanai got further strained, the Soviet Union sent a high level delegations to

Afghanistan. The delegation played its mediation role and as a result, Shah Nawaz Tanai presented five proposals to Najibullah through the Russians. One of the conditions was that the officers arrested on the charge of staging coup d'etat should be released. The second was that those Amini Khalqis who are living in the temples should also be freed. The third condition was that the appointments of Generals and Commanders should be made on the recommendations of Tanai. The fourth condition was that those militia forces who at present working under the direct command of Najibullah should be placed under the control of the defence Ministry organs. The fifth condition was that Khalqis and Parchmis should have equal number of Government posts. (BBC, 3 January).

Huge Arms Shipments for Kabul

Western diplomats in Islamabad say that the Soviet Union has once again provided arms to Afghanistan in huge quantity. They say that the Soviet Union provided thirty rocket launchers, one hundred and thirtyfive tanks, two hundred and forty armoured vehicles and more than one hundred guns besides other arms and ammunition to the Kabul government during October to December last year. Moreover, more than twentytwo Soviet Scud missiles with a range of more than three hundred kilometres were also brought to the Afghan capital in the end of December (VOG, 9 January).

The Kabul regime President Mr. Najibullah has said at a press conference that after the withdrawal of Red Army, the Soviet Union is supporting Afghanistan in defence and economic fields. He added, we have not seen any indication from Moscow about the non-implementation of agreement signed with Afghanistan. (Radio Tehran, 26 January).

The Soviet Union will supply twelve transport aircraft and a number of modern tanks to Kabul regime soon.

The MIDIA has reported that the Soviet Union is providing MA 12 aircraft to Kabul regime. The report says that the supply of planes is aimed at replacing the Soviet aircraft withdrawn from Afghanistan.

It may be recalled that the Soviet Union has supplied three MIG-29 aircraft to Kabul regime some time back (Radio Tehran, 9 January).

Najib's Proposal to Change Name and Programme of PDPA

The Kabul regime President, Najibullah has proposed to change the name and programme of the Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

An AFP report from Kabul says Najibullah made the proposal in view of changes taking place in Eastern Europe.

According to reports of the Afghan newspapers, President Najibullah also proposed the formation of a United Front of all the leftist parties for the establishment of a future government and also for bringing about changes in the present and future programmes of the PDPA (Radio Tehran, 1 January).

Kabul Announce Casualties by the Mujahideen Rocket Attacks.

A spokesman for the Afghan Foreign Ministry has announced that the opposition continued intensive shelling of Kabul and the cities well after the last Soviet soldier left the country in February. Over two thousand rockets he said had since been fired on Kabul alone. The attacks left four hundred and thirty eight civilians dead and over thirteen hundred injured including women, children and elder people (Radio Moscow, 31 December 1989).

Sayyaf in Riyadh

The AIG Prime Minister, Abdur Rab Rasul Sayyaf

arrived in Riyadh Sunday last.

According to a report of Associated Press, Sayyaf is trying to seek the help from the Saudi leaders in resolving the differences among the Pakistan-based seven party alliance group (VIRA, 24 January).

Accused of Takhar Incident Executed

The Foreign Minister of the Afghan Interim Government and leader of Hizb-e-Islami Afghanistan, Mr. Gulbadin Hikmatyar while addressing the press conference demanded trial of the persons in the Shariat Court who ordered and those who executed four men of his party in northern Afghanistan recently. To a question, Mr. Hikmatyar said that Reconstruction Minister of Mujahideen's Afghan Interim Government and head of the Jamiat-e-Islami, Mr. Burhanuddin Rabbani had ordered the execution of his four partymen and Commander Ahmed Shah Masud implemented it. A Commander of the Hizb-e-Islami Sayid Jamal and three other persons were hanged in Taloqan city of Takhar province on December 23, 1989.

Mr. Hikmatyar described this action of the Jamiat-e-Islami as unilateral and barbaric. He, however, said that all Hizb-e-Islami commanders have been directed not to take any retaliatory action. Mr. Hikmatyar said that intensification of clashes among resistance groups would fulfil the objectives of the enemies of the Jihad-e-Afghanistan who want to create rifts among the Mujahideen (VOA, 1 January).

Hikmatyar and Iran Based Afghan Mujahideen reject AIG Election Plan

Hizb-e-Islami Chief, Gulbadin Hikmatyar and the Iran-based Afghan resistance groups have rejected the election plan announced yesterday by Abdur Rab Rasul Sayyaf. Mr.

Hikmatyar wants the elections to be held on the basis of adult franchise inside the refugees camps in Iran and Pakistan and in the liberated areas of Afghanistan. On the other hand, Pir Syed Ahmad Gilani of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, who was stressing on elections to be held on the basis of one man one vote, seems to have accepted the new election plan. Similarly, Maulvi Khalis of the Hizb-e-Islami who was against elections, now seems to have changed his mind (BBC, 18 January).

Refugees Gathering Reject AIG and Election Plan

More than a thousand Afghan Ulema, Qazis and tribal leaders participated in a grand meeting in a camp of the Afghan refugees in Quetta on January 8, 1990.

The meeting was held in Pir Alizai Camp of the Afghan refugees near Quetta. More than a thousand Ulema, Commanders of the Afghan Mujahideen and tribal leaders participated in the meeting. The aim of the meeting was to discuss Mr. Hikmatyar's press conference in Islamabad last Sunday. It also discussed matters pertaining to the Interim Government. They rejected the statement of Mr. Hikmatyar and the interim government.

Hayatullah a Commander of NLFA in Qandahar told BBC, that Mr. Hikmatyar had said in the press conference that the seven parties have held talks and have become closer to each other. He had also said that only seven parties have the right to field their candidates for the elections and no other person has the right to do so. He had further said that even the former Afghan Monarch, Zahir Shah has no right to contest the elections. That is why, we held the meeting. We have adopted four-point stand. First of all, we have rejected the interim government as we did earlier. We have also rejected the statement of Mr. Hikmatyar about the future elections. We cannot accept the government

controlled by the seven parties based in Peshawar (BBC, 9 January).

Khalili Say Elections Possible

About the views of the seven Party-Mujahideen Alliance and its some leaders that elections in the present situation is difficult or impossible, Mr. Mohammad Karim Khalili, the Chief of the Nasar Organisation of Afghanistan said that with the support of all fighting forces, we can hold elections in the liberated areas as well as refugee camps in Iran and Pakistan.

At the end, about his last meeting with the President of the Afghan Interim Government, Mr. Khalili said that during the meeting, he laid stress on the continuation of talks among the Afghan alliances, expansion of the AIG and elections procedure (Radio Tehran, 7 January).

A Scud Landed Near Islamabad

After the landing of a missile in an open ground near Islamabad on January 10, Pakistan has appealed to the Soviet Union to ask Afghanistan to remain within its limits.

The Soviet Ambassador to Islamabad was summoned to the Foreign Ministry on January 12, and was informed that a formal protest would be lodged with the Afghan Charge d' Affairs on this incident.

The Pakistan Defence Ministry said that the missile which landed on the country's soil was a Soviet-made Scud missile which the Kabul regime has been using against the Afghan Mujahideen. The Missile caused a big crater in the ground but caused no casualty.

Prime Minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto has warned the Afghan regime against any such missile attack in future. However, there has so far been no comment by the Afghan government on the incident (VOA, 12 January).

A spokesman of the Afghan Foreign Ministry in a statement has rejected the statement of the Pakistan Defence Ministry that the Afghan Armed Forces have fired Scud missile at the soil of Pakistan on Tuesday (Radio Kabul, 13 January).

Afghan-Central Asian Connection

A court in the Soviet Republic of Tajakistan has awarded eight years imprisonment to a man on charge of espionage for the Afghan Mujahideen.

The Soviet News Agency, TASS said the man, Abdul Hameed Baulatov had crossed into the Afghan border and made contacts with the Mujahideen.

The agency said the accused later arrived in the Soviet Union and formed a group of Soviet Muslims, but was arrested (BBC, 24 January).

Benazir Want a Political Settlement

Commenting on the situation in Afghanistan the Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto said that she wanted political settlement in Afghanistan. She added that she thinks that if there is any change in the government in Afghanistan the Afghan interim government would be ready for political settlement.

The Pakistani Prime Minister said that the Afghan Mujahideen are not prepared to hold any kind of talks with the present Afghan government. She said she had reports that a meeting of the Afghan Shooras was going to be called soon. It will broaden the base of the Afghan interim government. She added if the Interim government was broad-based the prospects of its success would certainly be brighten (BBC, 9 January).

Zahir Shah Met the Italian President

The former Afghan Monarch Zahir Shah for the first

time called on the Italian President today. The Italian Prime Minister and some other senior leaders were also present on the occasion.

A spokesman for Zahir Shah decline to give any comment whether the meeting has any link with reports that Mr. Zahir Shah was likely to become the head of a new government in Kabul which replace the Najibullah regime. He only said that the Afghanistan issue and the other matters relating to the region came up for discussion (BBC, 22 January).

In an interview to MIDIA, the AIG Prime Minister, Mr. Abdur Rab Rasul Sayyaf condemned the Italian President's meeting with Zahir Shah, saying that it aimed at to undermine the efforts of the Mujahideen to form a broad-based Council. He said that the countries, which claimed to be in favour of peace and nation's right to self-determination should not interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan that could harm the struggle of the Afghan people for bringing peace and stability in their country (VOA, 25 January).

UNGOMAP Tenure Extended

The UN Security Council has unanimously approved a two-month extension of the deployment of forty military observers in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The Mission manned by officers drawn from other UN operations was established under the 1988 Geneva Accords to monitor the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. (AIR, 12 January).

Re-opening of Embassies in Kabul

France has confirmed that it is re-opening its Embassy in Afghanistan, the first Western nation to send diplomats back to Kabul. A French Foreign Ministry official, who is visiting Pakistan said the Kabul Mission will be re-staffed at the

charge d' Affairs level. She said the action reflects a desire to get more information and to ensure protection for French citizens in the country. She said it does not reflect any change in French policy for the Afghan government.

French, like other western nations supports the Muslim guerrillas who have been fighting the Soviet-backed Kabul government since 1978 (VOA, 10 January).

Pakistan has expressed concern over French plan of re-opening its Embassy in Afghanistan. In Islamabad, a Foreign Office Spokesman said that Pakistan has asked the French government to postpone re-opening of its Embassy for a reasonable time (VOA, 12 January).

The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries have described the French government decision to re-open its embassy in Kabul as unfriendly act and dubbed it as disgrace to the Afghan nation.

According to an AFP report, a source of the Afghan Mujahideen has described the French decision as a first step towards the implementation of secret agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union for preventing the establishment of Islamic government in Afghanistan (Radio Tehran, 7 January).

The Indonesian government has re-opened its Embassy in the capital of Afghanistan.

Indonesian charge d' Affairs Abdul Ghani has already arrived in Kabul with a small group of administrative and technical staff (Radio Moscow, 16 January).

Najib for Stoppage of Arms Supplies

The President, Najibullah received a team of foreign journalists for meeting in Gulkhana Palace, on February 5, 1990. Bakhtar news agency reports that President Najibullah briefed the journalist about the political and military situation of the country and answered questions put to him by the journalists. While answering the question of a foreign journalist regarding the forthcoming meeting

between the US and Soviet Foreign Ministers and their possible agreement on symmetrical stoppage of arms supply to the belligerent Afghan sides, President Najibullah said that the Afghan government was of the belief that stoppage of arms supply was necessary for ending war in Afghanistan. He said that not only the supper powers but all the foreign countries should stop arms supply to the concerned sides of the Afghan war. He said that a ceasefire should be enforced simultaneously with the stoppage of arms supply and all the present arms-stocks should be disposed off under the UN supervision. He said that in case of international guarantees, the issue of demilitarising Afghanistan should also be deliberated upon (Radio Kabul, 5 February).

Najib Stress on Changes in PDPA

Afghan President Najibullah addressing the National Assembly has said that the ruling Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan has to mend its ways and make itself acceptable to the opposition groups. Speaking at the inaugural session of Parliament President Najibullah said, there was only one way of ending miseries of people, that some political solution should be find out. He said he does not expect that Mujahideen guerrillas would accept his party's policies and in his opinion they (Mujahideen) will not surrender unconditionally. So the party will have to bring changes in its ranks according to the changed situation. There were tight security arrangements in the session and it was convened in a big underground room of Foreign Ministry instead of Parliament building (BBC, 26 February).

Wakil Visit India

Afghan Foreign Minister, Abdul Wakil has said that he has asked New Delhi to play a major role in political settlement of the Afghan problem. Mr. Wakil met his Indian counterpart, I. K. Gujral in New Delhi on February 13, 1990. A spokesman of the Indian Foreign Ministry has quoted him

as saying that Kabul appreciates the New Delhi's support to the United Nations plan for a political settlement of the Afghan conflict. The spokesman has said that India is always ready to play its role in the settlement of the problem but has not taken any initiative at its own during past few months. Similarly, Mr. Wakil expressed his country's support to the Indian stand on Kashmir. The spokesman has also quoted Mr. Wakil as having said that Afghanistan condemns the activities of separatists who are being assisted from abroad (VOA, 14 February).

National Front Meeting Held

The meeting of the Executive Committee of the central Council of the Afghan National Front was held in Kabul today with Afghan Vice President, Abdur Rahim Hatif in the chair. The meeting discussed the proposal of the Secretariat of the Afghan National Front about the resignation of Abdur Rahim Hatif from the post of the Chairman of the Central Council of the Front. The proposal was unanimously approved. The meeting also discussed and approved the proposal of the Secretariat of Afghan National Front about the forces of the country. The meeting also appointed Farid Ahmad Mazdak, as Acting Chairman of the Central Council of Afghan National Front (Radio Kabul, 12 February).

Najib Declare Truce

The Afghan President, Dr. Najib has declared a six-month unilateral truce in the fighting with anti-government rebels. In a television interview last night on the 'First Anniversary' of the Soviet troops pull out from Afghanistan he said the period should be used to prepare for free and fair elections. The President also proposed for the setting up of an interim government at Kabul with the participation of the rebels (AIR, 15 February).

Afghan Solution in Soviet Hands

The special envoy of Pakistan's Prime Minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, who briefed the US newsmen said about Afghanistan that we do not want to impose any solution on any one. He said the difficulty is that the issue is quite complicated and we are trying to convince the Afghans living abroad to make efforts for a peaceful settlement and adopt the way of peaceful transfer of power. Mr. Akhund said the Afghans living abroad do agree with us and they do not say that they want victory from the military point of view. The Afghans are continuing the war, because the Soviet Union is daily sending more than forty planes load of arms to Najibullah and that is why fighting is not coming to an end. According to Mr. Akhund, the solution to Afghan issue is not in the hands of Pakistan, in fact, it is in the hands of the Soviet Union and we have talked to the Soviets in this regard and asked them to practise the logic of their withdrawal and if they do so, they should leave Afghanistan to the Afghan people themselves and then we would not say as to who is a good ruler and who is bad. Let the Afghan decide their fate themselves. Najibullah is unacceptable not only to peshawar-based Mujahideen but also to those, based in Iran (VOA, 23 February).

US Abandoned Demand for Najib's Removal

During his talks with the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Shevardnadze in Moscow, the US Secretary of State Mr. James Baker has admitted that his country is no longer demanding the removal of President Najibullah. The US State Department Officials have hinted on Monday that the United States would not insist on the removal of President Najib prior to the starting of peace talks with the Mujahideen. Earlier Washington was insisting that any

peace talks could only be held while, Najibullah quits his office (BBC, 10 February).

Mujahideen Reject Soviet Peace Plan

The Prime Minister of Pakistan-based Afghan interim government has condemned a peace plan of the Soviet Union. The Prime Minister of interim government, Abdur Rasool Sayyaf said that this proposal was an interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. He said that Mujahideen will never accept Najibullah as President of interim government who was imposed on the Afghan people through Soviet tanks. This plan was presented by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze during his talks with his American counterpart in Moscow last week. The Soviet Foreign Minister had proposed to convene a peace conference with the participation of United States, Soviet Union and President Najibullah. Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil has welcomed this proposal (VOA, 16 February).

Rabbani and Gilani Visit Tehran

Two leaders of the Afghan Mujahideen Interim Government Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani and Pir Ahmad Gilani arrived in Tehran on February 21, 1990.

In an interview in Tehran, Burhanuddin stressed that the Nine-Party Alliance based in Iran should take part in the coming elections of Afghanistan. He said that the Tehran and Peshawar-based Afghan Mujahideen should take joint steps for the solution of the Afghan problem. Similarly, leader of the Jamiat-e-Islami of Afghanistan said that the Afghans and Mujahideen will decide themselves about their country's future (Radio Tehran, 22 February).

Leaders of the Pakistan-based Seven-Party Alliance of the Afghan Mujahideen, Burhanuddin Rabbani and Pir Ahmad Gilani held first round of talks with the Central Council of

Iran-based Nine-Party Alliance of the Afghan Mujahideen in the office of the nine-party alliance on February 25, 1990.

In the meeting the delegation of the seven-party alliance of the Afghan Mujahideen put forward an election plan for Afghanistan and asked for the participation of the Iran-based Mujahideen alliance in the proposed plan (Radio Tehran, 25 February 1990).

Shia-Sunni Unity Urged

A leader of the Afghan Mujahideen's Nine-Party Alliance, Hujatal Islam Ibrahim met a number of Peshawar-based Afghan leaders.

According to an IRNA report, he urged the Afghan Mujahideen to unite themselves against the conspiracies of the imperialists. He said the solution of the Afghan conflict and establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan lies in the unity among the Shias and Sunnis. He said the Wahabism and American brand Islam is a major danger to the true Islam of the Holy Prophet, Mohammad (peace be upon him) (Radio Tehran, 24 February).

Afghan-Central Asian Connection

Here are the extracts of an interview of Professor Rabbani and Commander of the Mujahideen, Ahmed Shah Masood:

The Soviet Union has time and again blamed the Afghan Mujahideen for provoking the Muslims against the government in the Islamic republics of the country. In this connection, the Soviet Ambassador, Boris Pastokhov addressed a press conference in Kabul last week. Pastokhov said that Mujahideen have been providing money and weapons to their Muslim brethren in the Soviet Republics. He also blamed Pakistan and the United States that through their assistance to the Mujahideen, they are fanning fire of unrest and disturbances in the Soviet republics and creating

instability in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Chief of the Jamiat-e-Islami, Professor Rabbani has rejected the allegations and has expressed sympathy with the Muslims of Tajikistan and pledged full support to them. Professor Rabbani has held Moscow responsible for the happenings and trouble in the Islamic republics, saying that the unrest in Tajikistan is the result of the oppressions and repressions of the past seventy years. In an interview with AFP, Professor Rabbani said that the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan has further strengthened fraternal relations between the Afghans and Tajiks. He said, "we have common language, culture and religion". One of the prominent commanders of the Afghan Mujahideen belonging to Jamiat-e-Islami, Ahmed Shah Masood has also issued a statement in this regard, saying that the Soviet Muslims should separate themselves from Moscow. This statement of commander Masood was issued after proclamation of emergency in Doshambe city of Tajikistan. He said that the Soviet Muslims of Central Asia, who are living under the clutches of Soviet Communism, should be given freedom and independence.

Professor Rabbani has urged the member countries of OIC and Non-Aligned Movement not to allow the Soviets to suppress the voice of freedom of Tajikistan. Professor Rabbani said that the world leaders should listen the voice of the Muslims people of Tajikistan, before the conversion of that country into another Afghanistan and do some thing in this direction (VOA, 23 February).

The Afghan leader, President Najibullah says his government has adopted new security measures to prevent weapons being smuggled into Soviet Tadzhikistan from Afghanistan. He was speaking at a news conference in Kabul when journalists quoted Afghan guerilla leaders as saying they planned to send arms to Taizhik Groups in the Soviet Union. He did not say what steps have been taken or how government troops could enforce control in border areas of Afghanistan held by the guerillas (BBC, 18 February).

Mujahideen Condemn Foreign Interference

Sibghatullah Mujaddedi, the President of AIG has said that the US intervention in the Afghanistan issue is not aimed at supporting the Mujahideen but it is for the reason to balance power with the Soviet Union. According to a report he was speaking at a function in Peshawar to celebrate the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. He said that the US and other Western countries had never been in favour of the establishment of an Islamic Government in Afghanistan (VIRA, 16 February).

On the eve of the anniversary of the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan the Prime Minister of the Interim Government of the Afghan Mujahideen has said that the people of Afghanistan do not believe in any right for Najib in Afghanistan.

At a press conference in Islamabad, Abdur Rasool Sayyaf said that although the Soviet Union has withdrawn its forces from Afghanistan yet it has kept its military advisers in that country who are supervising the military operations.

While referring to the interference of the super powers in the affairs of Afghanistan Mr. Sayyaf said that we will not accept interference of any alien power in our country and we do not accept their agreements on any grounds (VIRA, 22 February).

VIEWS ON ABORTIVE COUP

Zahir Shah

The former Afghan monarch, Zahir Shah says that the last week's abortive coup led by the former Defence Minister has proved that Najibullah does not enjoy the support of the people in running the government. The former monarch told Italian news agency that differences between the factions of Communist regime indicate that it does not have any legal status. Muhammad Zahir Shah said that for restoration of peace in Afghanistan, the present government should be replaced by a government acceptable to majority of the people (VOA, 18 March).

Prime Minister Benazir

About the recent attempt to overthrow the Najib

government in Afghanistan, the Prime Minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said that these events have proved correct Pakistan's view point that the Najib government does not enjoy support of the Afghan masses and that the time has come now for taking bold steps for a peaceful political settlement in Afghanistan. She said that the Afghan defence Minister, Gen. Shahnawaz Tanai coup would bring about wide political results, because it has showed that the Najib government is not only unpopular among the Afghan masses but also his colleagues have got disappointed with him. The Afghan Army has also been divided into two and the Najib government is disintegrating she said. "I think this is time for a bold step. I think this is the time for not only Pakistan to stop playing favourites, it is time for the Soviet Union to stop playing favourites". Ms. Benazir Bhutto said that Pakistan has been in constant touch with the United States, Iran Saudi Arabia and other friendly countries on the Afghanistan issue. Responding to a question for halting arms supplies to the warring parties in Afghanistan from all sides, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said it is premature to say that war should be immediately put to an end or that arms supplies be stopped. However, under a comprehensive plan, all these aspects can be considered. She said that Pakistan considers correct the stand of the Mujahideen Interim Government that the Afghan people should decide their future through elections (VOA, 14 March).

Peter Tomson

The United States special envoy for Afghan Mujahideen, Mr. Peter Tomson has said in Peshawar that the recent abortive coup attempt indicates that Najib is facing differences within his ruling party. He said that abortive coup minimised the political importance of Najib government (VIRA, 18 March).

Hikmatyar

The Afghan Guerrilla leader, Mr. Gulbadin Hikmatyar has defended his decision to support the leader of last week's attempted coup in Afghanistan, General Shahnawaz Tanai. Speaking in a BBC interview he rejected charges by other

guerrilla leaders, that by working with hardline military officers, he had compromised the Jihad or holy war. Mr. Hikmatyar said other guerrilla leaders were sadly mistaken. He insisted that he had not joined General Tanai but the General has joined the Mujahideen, accepting their goal to establish an Islamic government in Afghanistan. Mr. Hikmatyar pointed out that other Afghan officers and members of the ruling party including President Najibullah's brother were previously accepted by guerrilla parties when they defected. This was no different, he said, adding that General Tanai had given valuable assistance, by splitting the ruling party (BBC, 17 March).

Abdul Wakil

The Afghan Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Wakil has accused Pakistan of directly organising last week's attempt to overthrow President Najibullah. In a BBC interview he said he had complained to the United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Perez de Cuellar about what he called gross violations by Pakistan of the Geneva Agreement on Afghanistan. The Pakistan Prime Minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto has meanwhile denied earlier charges by the Afghans that her military intelligence service was involved in the foiled coup. She said the coup attempt was unexpected (BBC, 14 March).

Casualties During the Coup Attempt

Afghan Charge d' Affairs in the Soviet Union Saeed Murtaza has said that more than two hundred people were killed and about five hundred other wounded during the recent coup attempt in Kabul (Radio Moscow, 15 March).

According to a report of an Afghan journalist, during the recent abortive coup attempt in Kabul about 400 officers of the Kabul regime were killed. The report says that 145 civilians were also killed in the coup attempt (VIRA, 15 March).

People Linked With Coup Attempt Arrested

Western diplomats say Afghan authorities have arrested three thousand people linked with the coup attempt against President Najibullah, earlier this month. They say many

soldiers and officers have fled with their families for fear of reprisals. The diplomats say this has crippled the Afghan Air Force that played a major role in the coup attempt led by former Defence Minister Shahnawaz Tanai (VOA, 28 March).

PDPA to Abandon Monopoly on Power

Afghan President Najibullah has urged his ruling Peoples Democratic Party to move more quickly towards giving up its monopoly on power. Mr. Najibullah told the party's Central Committee that his Marxist Party has done little in the past two years to reach its stated goal of relinquishing its hold on power. At the meeting, he also announced the expulsion of seventeen more party members accused in the recent coup attempt against his Government (VOA, 19 March).

Afghan President Najibullah is going to convene a meeting with a view to forming a new Front. He hopes that a considerably large number of political and social groups will join this Front which will be called the Peace Front.

Now the announcement to summon a Congress within four months for forming the Front was made by a member of the Politburo of the PDPA, Mr. Farid Ahmed Mazdak. He is also the Acting Chairman of the National Front. He described the Front as an independent organisation (BBC, 25 March).

Eight Parties Meeting With Najib Denied

The Afghan Government has disclosed that President Najibullah had a meeting in central Afghanistan on March 15, with representatives of guerrillas based in Iran. A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Kabul said the President gave them a briefing on the background to the failure of the recent attempted coup and asked them to cooperate in the quest for national reconciliation (BBC, 18 March).

A spokesman of the Iran-based Afghan guerrillas' alliance, Mr. Syed Ali Javed says no important guerrilla commander participated in any kind of talks with President Najibullah (BBC, 18 March).

President Najibullah unexpectedly arrived in the city of Mazar-e-Sharif on the new year day and addressed a

gathering of ten thousand people including a number of Shia guerrillas who according to eye-witnesses handed over their weapons to organisers of the rally in order to attend the meeting. Najibullah is trying to win the support of Shia Sect. Reports received last week said that he had held talks with local commanders of Iran-based guerrilla groups following which a delegation of Pakistan-based guerrillas had gone to Tehran to seek clarification. Both these guerrilla groups already have differences between themselves (BBC, 22 March).

New Appointments and Promotions

Afghan President Najibullah has appointed four new Deputy Defence Ministers. The BBC Kabul-based correspondent was told that this action aims at reorganising the defence Ministry after the abortive coup attempt.

The names of these four Deputy Defence Ministers are: Lt. Gen. Mohammad Zahir Sholamal, Lt. Gen. Mohammad Akram, Brig. Gen. Alauddin and Brig. Gen. Gul Mohammad (BBC, 28 March).

The Afghan President, by issuing a presidential decree, has appointed Mohammad Aslam Watanyar, the member of the Defence Council as the Defence Minister of Afghanistan. By issuing another decree, the President has appointed Raz Mohammad Pakteen as the Home Minister (Radio Kabul, 6 March).

In recognition of their services and outstanding role in foiling the abortive coup attempt the following military officers have been awarded the order of Saur Revolution, by the President Najibullah. Deputy Commander of Kabul Garrison, Brigadier General Abdul Baqi Deputy Commandant of the general command of the Kabul Garrison, Brigadier General Yaqub. Similarly, under a Presidential decree a number of officers of the Armed Forces have been promoted to the rank of Brigadier General, in recognition of their active and heroic role in foiling the coup attempt of Shahnawaz-Gulbadin (Radio Kabul, 14 March).

Pak-Soviet Talks on Afghanistan

The Soviet Union and Pakistan held talks in Moscow on March 11 and 12. These talks were attended by Soviet Deputy

Foreign Minister, Mr. Yuli Vorontsov and Pakistan Foreign Secretary Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan. They focussed their attention mostly on Afghanistan problem. Both the sides expressed their willingness to carry on persuasion for talks for the constitution of a broad-based government in Afghanistan. The Pakistani official's attention was drawn towards the problem of Soviet prisoners of war which has special humanitarian significance. Mr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan said that Pakistan would assist in solving the problem. Both the sides also agreed to continue their talks on Foreign Ministry level (Radio Kabul, 16 March).

UN Observers Team Stop Operation

The UN observers team, operating in Afghanistan and Pakistan, will stop its functioning today. The team was sent to the region under the Geneva Agreements which paved the way for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. The team was assigned with the task of ensuring non-interference in the affairs of Afghanistan and to supervise the process of the return of millions of Afghan refugees from Iran and Pakistan. In his letter to the Security Council, the UN Secretary General has said that consultations with the signatories of the Geneva Agreements have revealed that consensus on continuing the mission would not be possible (BBC, 15 March).

Zahir Shah Rejects PDPA

The former King of Afghanistan, Zahir Shah in an interview to Afghan Radio, has said that if President Najibullah's Communist Government resign then he would return to Afghanistan. He added that an interim government with the representation of all sects of the Afghan society was necessary to be formed for the settlement of Afghan conflict. Zahir Shah rejected Najibullah's offer which said he could play a key role in the politics on return to Afghanistan (VOG, 19 March).

AIG Deputy Defence Minister Killed

Commander Muhammad Nasim Akhundzada alongwith his five other local commanders was killed by some un-

identified armed men in Cherat area east of Peshawar yesterday when he was on his way to the office of Harkat-e-Inquilabi Islami. Mr. Nasim Akhundzada was Deputy Defence Minister in the Afghan Interim Government and had arrived in Peshawar from Quetta eighteen days ago on the directive of Maulvi Muhammad Nabi Muhammadi to participate in the organisational matters of the defence Ministry. He was also a member of the sixteen member Committee which was formed last year to move a proposal in the Shoorah held in Rawalpindi for the formation of the interim government. He was a Commander of about ten thousand Mujahideen in Helmand, Kandahar and Uruzgan Provinces. He had repulsed seven attacks of the Soviets in northern area of Helmand and was recognized as a prominent and strong Commander of the jihad. He had also set up a sovereign shoorah for the execution of Mujahideen affairs in his area (VOA, 26 March).

2-ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION & RE-PATRIATION

Kabul to Send Relief Assistance to Northern Areas

The Kabul administration has announced a plan to send relief assistance to North-Eastern Afghanistan to overcome food shortage in the area. It also includes the places which are under the control of the Mujahideen. A Presidential statement broadcast by Radio Kabul says that the aid will consist of food, medicines, tents and agricultural equipment. In the statement, guerilla Commanders have been appealed not to create obstacles in the way of relief efforts (BBC, 5 January).

Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Visit Kuwait

The Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Dawood Kawyani who is on working visit to Kuwait has held talks with the officials of the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry. He also delivered a message of President Najibullah addressed to the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah.

The Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister threw light on peace proposals of the Afghan government and recent developments in the country. Matters pertaining to Kuwaiti assistance for Afghanistan were also discussed during the meeting. He also visited the Kuwaiti Religious Ministry and asked for cooperation between the Kuwaiti Religious Ministry and Afghan Religious Ministry (Radio Kabul, 5 January)

Indo-Afghan Economic Co-operation

The Afghan Foreign Minister, Abdul Wakil who is visiting India, has held a meeting with his Indian counterpart, I. K. Gujral in New Delhi. The meeting which was held without aides discussed developments in the two countries and the regional situation. The two Foreign Ministers expressed their support for further promotion of bilateral relations between India and Afghanistan in the regional peace. The Afghan Foreign Minister also held a meeting with the Indian Trade Minister and discussed with

him matters relating to improvement of trade relations between India and Afghanistan. Both the sides stressed the need for boosting Indo-Afghan trade and economic relations. They decided that the issue of economic and trade cooperation should be discussed in the next meeting of the Joint Indo-Afghan Economic Commission scheduled to be held in new Delhi in near future (Radio Kabul, 13 February).

Food Shortage in Kabul

The distribution of food stuffs was started through the workers of the Ministry of Health on behalf of the United Nations among the deserving and needy children facing the shortage of food stuffs in the Kabul city. According to a report of informed source this process will continue in future, it will also be started in other needy provinces, including Badakhshan, Faryab and Badghis. This assistance was received from the Food Programme of the FAO and the Office of the UN Economic Assistance. The Afghan Ministry of Planning, while representing the Afghanistan government, has thanked the concerned authorities for this aid (Radio Kabul, 1st February, 1990).

Famine in Northern Afghanistan

Northern Afghanistan has been hit by famine. The Government of the Province of Herat said a quarter of the 1.3 million population was starving, but denied United Nations report that families were selling their children to ensure their survival. According to the report scores of people have fled to Iran. The famine has been caused by a plague of locusts (VOG, 6 February).

UN Official Meet Kishmand and Amin

The Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of Afghanistan, Sultan Ali Kishmand met in his office in Kabul on February 22 with the permanent representative of the coordinator of the UN humanitarian and economic assistance to Afghanistan.

During the meeting, while expressing satisfaction over the UN humanitarian and economic assistance, Sultan Ali

Kishtmand drew attention of UN representative towards early despatch of UN assistance to the northern, central and southern areas of the country including Badakhshan, Takhar, Kunduz, Baghlan, Faryab and Badghis provinces and opening of offices of the UN Mission in some other provinces of the country. They discussed matters relating to transportation of the returnees and assistance for rural development (Radio Kabul, 22 February).

The Afghan Deputy Prime Minister, Syed Amanuddin Amin met in his office with the Director of UNDP in Kabul. During the meeting they discussed matters relating to the expansion of UN assistance to Afghanistan (Radio Kabul, 17 February).

US Suspends Food Supplies to the Mujahideen

The United States has suspended food supplies to the Afghan Mujahideen because there are difficulties in monitoring and distribution of food. US State Department spokesman says a better system of monitoring is being worked out and food supplies would soon be resumed. The spokesman added that food supplies which are thirty per cent of the overall US humanitarian assistance to the Mujahideen were suspended in November and January. The Washington Post reported that military intelligence agency of Pakistan (ISI) which supervises distribution of assistance has recently shifted somewhere 2400 tonnes of wheat supplied by the United State (VOA, 16 February).

Sadraddin Visit Pakistan and Afghanistan

The UN coordinator for Afghanistan, Prince Sadrudin Aga Khan speaking to newsmen in Peshawar yesterday, has said that the Afghans are tired of eleven years of refugee life. Prince Sadrudin Aga Khan quoted some experts as saying that situation in the suburbs of Kabul and in the two third area of the country is returning to normal. He said that situation is normal in Kunar, Badakhshan, Nimroz, Logar, Herat, Badghis, Hazarajat and some other areas. He said that fighting in these areas are completely stopped, shoras are formed, and elections held. Prince Sadrudin Aga Khan added that two hundred projects of the UN Salam Operation

are operating. He went on to say that in the past foreign assistance has been provided to the areas near Pakistani border. Now serious efforts are being made for the supply of assistance to northern, central and western Afghanistan.

Prince Aga Khan who arrived in Pakistan on March 21, denied all the speculations and rumours that he has taken responsibility of shuttle diplomacy between Islamabad and Kabul.

Prince Sadrudin Aga Khan was accompanied by the chief of World Food Programme and the UN Chief Commissioner for Refugees (BBC, 25 March).

A high level UN team, led by Prince Sadrudin Aga Khan called on the Afghan President, Dr. Najibullah and discussed with him matters relating to the UN humanitarian and economic assistance for Afghanistan. President Najibullah said that his government was ready to extend all facilities for the implementation of the UN programme in the areas under the control of the Afghan government and also in those areas which are under the control of the opposition.

Later, Prince Sadrudin Aga Khan briefed President Najibullah about various projects of the United Nations humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan. He said that the UN was also trying to establish peace zones in certain provinces of Afghanistan with a view to step up the return of refugees and to pave the way for restoration of peace in these areas (Radio Kabul, 26 March).

Immediately after his arrival in Kabul on March 26, Prince Sadrudin started negotiations with senior government officials including Prime Minister Kishtmand and Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Wakil. Informed sources say that main attention was focused on the offer of 400 million dollar humanitarian and food aid for 1990. The sides are considering to declare some areas of Afghanistan as zone of peace. The refugees in Pakistan and Iran may return and live in these places (BBC, 26 March).

Re-Patriation Plan

In an interview, the UN Co-ordinator on Humanitarian Assistance for Afghanistan, Prince Sadrudin Aga Khan

has said that UN hopes, the five million Afghan refugees' repatriation to their country would be started till next summer.

According to an AFP report, he said that for the completion of this task new arrangements will be made as developments in Eastern Europe have made it difficult to collect funds for this gigantic task (Radio Tehran, 24 March).

The President of the Afghan interim government, Professor Mujaddedi has said if two conditions are met, he would have no objection to the United Nations proposal about the return home of the Afghan refugees. The first condition is that the Kabul regime and the Soviet Union should provide guarantees that the government troops would not carry out either missile or aerial attacks on the Mujahideen controlled areas where the United Nations plans to rehabilitate the refugees. The second one is whether the United Nations has adequate resources for the programme so that the Afghan refugees on their return home could earn their livelihood. He said the refugees would need help for farming and construction of their homes to meet their basic requirements.

Professor Mujaddedi stressed that the Afghan refugees should be persuaded to return to their country and they should not be forced to do so (BBC, 27 March).

Abdul Rasool Sayyaf has turned down the United Nations plan for the return home of the Afghan Refugees.

According to Mr. Sayyaf refugees would not be able to return home until what he described, as the genuinely Muslim government is set up in Kabul (Radio Moscow, 29 March)

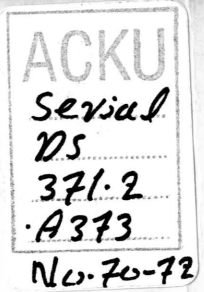
Food Stuff Shortage

The United Nations has been asked to provide humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan. The UN Coordinator Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan has told reporters in Geneva that there is shortage of food stuff in many parts of Afghanistan. He particularly referred to northern Afghanistan where crops have been destroyed by locust. It may be recalled that the UN had earlier promised to provide six hundred and fifty million dollars worth of assistance to Afghanistan. But Mr. Aga Khan has said that the assistance promised earlier has still not reached Afghanistan (BBC, 2 March).

Reconstruction and Repatriation Without a Political Settlement.

The United Nation's Secretary general's special envoy on Afghanistan Mr. Benon Sevan, has said that the political solution of Afghanistan issue is not possible until its humanitarian and economic problems are solved. He said, the United Nations has been striving for reconciliation among the Afghan rival parties but guerrillas are not willing to hold talks with the President Najibullah. This attitude has become the biggest hurdle in the way of reconciliatory endeavours, he said. In view of this stalemate, majority of Afghan refugees are reluctant in returning home. Mr. Benon Sevan, stated that they cannot wait for the establishment of peace for rehabilitating the area ravaged by the eleven-year long civil war. They will have to pave the way for the establishment of peace gradually. The United Nations plans to start rehabilitating refugees in the areas where war has stopped. Sevan admitted that distrust is found on both the sides.

The United Nations High commissioner for refugees Mr. Thorvald Stoltenberg has said that constant stalemate in return of refugees could cause serious issues about provision of funds. Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan said that the talks with the Pakistan Government are continuing for phased return of the refugees on voluntary basis to areas where they consider themselves safe (BBC, 27 March).



STRATEGIC STUDIES

(Quarterly Journal)

Published by

The Institute of Strategic Studies
Sector F-5/2
(P.O. Box 1173) Islamabad, Pakistan

Contains Stratagems, Strategic Map Review,
Research Articles on Strategy and Allied
Disciplines and Book Reviews

Subscription Rates:

<i>Annual</i>	:	Pakistan	Rs. 50/-	
		Overseas	\$ 10/-	(including surface postage)
<i>Single Copy</i>	:	Pakistan	Rs. 15/-	
		Overseas	\$ 3/-	(including surface postage)

Available in all major bookshops in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta, Karachi and Sialkot. Also reaching out to over 150 centres of learning abroad.